

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



लद्दाख का राजपत्र

The Ladakh Gazette

एस.जी.-एल.डी.-अ.-08112024-1414
SG-LD-E-08112024-1414

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

लद्दाख, 08 नवंबर, 2024
LADAKH, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER, 08, 2024

Part II - Section 3

केन्द्र-शासित प्रदेश लद्दाख प्रशासन
ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH

Department of Tourism & Culture

NOTIFICATION
Ladakh, the 08th of November, 2024

Subject: **Registration and Renewal Guidelines for Adventure Tour Operators and Adventure Activity Guidelines in the UT of Ladakh of the Tourism Department.**

All the tourism stakeholders are hereby informed through the medium of this notification that the **Registration and Renewal Guidelines for Adventure Tour Operators and Adventure Activity Guidelines in the UT of Ladakh of the Tourism Department** has been approved by the Competent Authority.

It is further informed that the Registration and Renewal Guidelines for Adventure Tour Operators and Adventure Activity Guidelines in the UT of Ladakh of the Tourism Department will be effective from the date of publishing of this notification on the official website of the Administration of the UT of Ladakh.

Encl.: **As above.**

(मुहम्मद अली टाक/Muhammad Ali Tak)
अवर सचिव/ओएसडी/ Under Secretary/OSD
पर्यटन एवं संस्कृति विभाग/ Tourism & Culture Department
संघ राज्य लदाख /UT Ladakh

No: LA(Trm)(LMP)/UTL/2024/(223)/2419-26

Dated: 08.11.2024

Copy to the:

1. Director, Tourism Department, Ladakh for information & necessary action.
2. Technical Director, NIC, Ladakh with the request to upload the notification on the official website of the UT Administration Ladakh and District Websites of Leh and Kargil districts.
3. Joint Director, Information & Public Relations Department, UT Ladakh with the request for wide publicity.
4. Assistant Director, Tourism Department, Leh/Kargil for information & necessary action.
5. OSD to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Ladakh for kind information of the Hon'ble LG.
6. Private Secretary to Advisor to Hon'ble LG, Ladakh for kind information of the Advisor.
7. Office file.

Registration & Renewal Guidelines

(for Adventure Tour Operators)

**Department of Tourism
Union Territory of Ladakh**

I. Introduction

Adventure Tourism is a niche domain involving travel or exploration to remote, exotic and sometimes geographically and climatically difficult areas. The travelers step out of their comfort zone to experience nature with some degree of risk, be it real or perceived. Taking a step forward to open opportunities and encourage local travel trade operators to undertake these activities for employment generation, the Department of Tourism, Union Territory of Ladakh has formulated the 'Registration and Renewal Guidelines for Adventure Tour Operators', who are willing to undertake the following adventure activities in the Union Territory of Ladakh:

Land Based	Air Based	Water Based
1. All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Tours 2. Bungee Jumping 3. Mountain Biking & Cycling 4. Skiing/ Snowboarding 5. Snow Scooters 6. Sandboarding 7. Trekking 8. Ziplining 9. Rock Climbing, Artificial Wall Climbing, Abseiling and Ice Climbing 10. Motorcycle Tour Operators 11. Wildlife Tours	12. Paragliding 13. Parasailing 14. Para Motoring 15. Hot Air Ballooning	16. Rafting 17. Kayaking 18. Jet Ski

Aligning with the 'National Strategy for Adventure Tourism 2022' issued by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, the abovementioned adventure activities are categorized into the following risk categories:

- **High Risk:** Skiing/ Snowboarding, Sandboarding, Paragliding, Para Motoring, Rafting, Kayaking
- **Moderate Risk:** All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Tours, Bungee Jumping, Mountain Biking & Cycling, Snow Scooters, Trekking, Ziplining, Rock Climbing, Artificial Wall Climbing, Abseiling and Ice Climbing, Motorcycle Tour Operators, Wildlife Tours, Parasailing, Hot Air Ballooning, Jet Ski

Note: Registration of Mountaineering Tour Operators (MTOs) & operational guidelines for mountaineering activities shall be notified separately by the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh. In addition to these guidelines, terms and conditions of the National Air Sports Guidelines 2023 issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India shall be adhered to for air-based activities.

Separate guidelines for each of the identified adventure sports i.e. All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Tours, Bungee Jumping, Mountain Biking & Cycling, Skiing/ Snowboarding, Snow Scooters, Sandboarding, Trekking, Ziplining, Rock Climbing, Artificial Wall Climbing, Abseiling and Ice Climbing, Motorcycle Tour Operators,

Wildlife Tours, Paragliding, Parasailing, Para Motoring, Hot Air Ballooning, Rafting, Kayaking and Jet Ski have also been issued by the Department of Tourism, Union Territory of Ladakh.

II. Objective

To promote and ensure clean, high-quality, safe, eco-friendly and sustainable adventure activities by fostering responsible practices, and bringing all bona-fide adventure tour operators in the organized setup.

III. Adventure Tour Operator (ATO) – Definition

An Adventure Tour Operator (ATO) is the one who is engaged in activities related to adventure tourism in the Union Territory of Ladakh namely, **land-based activities** like All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Tours, Bungee Jumping, Mountain Biking & Cycling, Skiing/ Snowboarding, Snow Scooters, Sandboarding, Trekking, Ziplining, Rock Climbing, Artificial Wall Climbing, Abseiling and Ice Climbing, Motorcycle Tour Operators, Wildlife Tours; **air-based activities** like Paragliding, Parasailing, Para Motoring, Hot Air Ballooning; and **water-based activities** like Rafting, Kayaking and Jet Ski. In addition, the ATO may also make arrangements for transport, accommodation, etc.

IV. Validity and Fee Structure

The validity and fee structure for the registration and renewal of ATOs are listed below:

S. No.	Application Type	Entity	Validity Period	Fee
1.	New Registration	Adventure Tour Operator	3 years	Rs. 3,000
2.	Renewal	Adventure Tour Operator	3 years	Rs. 3,000

Note: The registration of the eligible ATO shall be valid up to the end of the second succeeding financial year i.e., up to 31st March of the second succeeding financial year. Example: If a new registration is made on 10th October 2024, it shall be valid up to 31st March 2027. This is to ensure that all ATO renewals are completed before the start of the tourist season in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

V. How to apply

The Department of Tourism, Union Territory of Ladakh shall invite application from the eligible ATOs through the office of Assistant Director (Tourism), Leh/ Kargil and Tourist Officer, Zanskar. Until the facility for submission of application is made online, eligible ATOs shall submit the application in hardcopy.

Note: The registration and renewal are subject to submission of complete application form, prescribed fee, supporting documents, fulfilment of terms and conditions of these guidelines and inspection (wherever required). The inspection process shall be completed within 30 days of receipt of the complete application form. Action shall be taken against the Assistant Director (Tourism), Leh & Kargil if the registration process is not completed within the defined timeframe of 30 days.

VI. Committees

There shall be committees and teams with specific functions for the regulated development of the adventure tourism ecosystem in the Union Territory of Ladakh. The composition of the committees and teams shall be as under:

S. No.	Committee	Functions	Members
1.	Advisory Committee	<p>The 'Advisory Committee' shall meet at least once a year before the start of the tourist season in the Union Territory of Ladakh, and shall be responsible for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify new adventure activities and their operational areas, address the carrying capacity of the area to avoid mushrooming/ over-crowding. ▪ Suggest measures for identifying new tourist destinations and to develop versatile adventure circuits for tourists. ▪ Ensure preparation and implementation of a risk management matrix, and emergency and evacuation plan. ▪ Any other functions concerning adventure activity operations in the Union Territory of Ladakh. 	<p>The 'Advisory Committee' shall comprise of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secretary Tourism, UT Ladakh (Chairperson) 2. Director (Tourism), UT Ladakh 3. Assistant Director (Tourism), Leh/ Kargil 4. Representative of the FCI/ IHM, Leh 5. Representative of the concerned operators' or adventure activity association/s of Ladakh
2.	Regulatory Committee	<p>The 'Regulatory Committee' shall be responsible for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Define quality and certification of equipment required and recommend specific requirements considering the risks involved in these activities at high-altitude. ▪ Surprise inspections during 	<p>The 'Regulatory Committee' shall comprise of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Director (Tourism), UT Ladakh (Chairperson) 2. Assistant Director (Tourism), Leh/ Kargil 3. Representative of the District Disaster Response Force (DDRF) 4. Representative of the Chief Medical Officer (CMO)

		<p>the adventure activity operations to ascertain adherence of the guidelines to help develop adaptative management strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grievance redressal mechanism. 	<p>5. Representative of the concerned operators' or adventure activity association/s of Ladakh</p>
3.	Inspection Team	<p>The 'Inspection Team' shall be responsible for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct inspection of the eligible applications received for the ATO registration and renewal. ▪ Responsible for the annual inspection of the registered ATO. ▪ Ensure that ATOs follow the safety guidelines for each identified adventure activity/ sports in letter and spirit. ▪ Regulating adventure activity operations, on-spot inspections. 	<p>The 'Inspection team' shall comprise of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Director (Tourism), UT Ladakh (Chairperson) 2. Assistant Director (Tourism), Leh/ Kargil 3. Representative of the District Disaster Response Force (DDRF) 4. Representative of the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) 5. Representative of the concerned operators' or adventure activity association/s of Ladakh

Note: The matter in which the committees are unable to take any decision shall be referred to the Secretary Tourism, UT Ladakh. The committees can co-opt any expert with sector specific expertise for suggestions or guidance.

VII. Registration of Adventure Tour Operators (ATOs)

Any entity who intends to operate as an Adventure Tour Operator (ATO) in the Union Territory of Ladakh must mandatorily register with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh fulfilling the following criteria:

S. No.	Criteria	Support Document	Remarks
1.	Applicant's proof of identity	Aadhaar card or any other Government of India issued photo identity card	Mandatory
2.	Applicant must be a resident of the Union Territory of Ladakh	Ladakh Resident Certificate (LRC) issued by the Competent Authority	Mandatory
3.	Business incorporation details	Incorporation certificate	Mandatory

		(under the Companies Act 1056/2013, the Partnership Act 1932, Partnership Deed or Proprietorship Firm, with GST Registration	
4.	Applicant must own essential equipment commensurate with the needs of undertaking and running adventure activity operations in the Union Territory of Ladakh	Self-certification detailing all available equipment with its specifications and quantity	Mandatory
5.	Earmarked office space in the Union Territory of Ladakh (not necessarily commercial space), equipped with necessary technology for smooth operations with accessible and clean toilet facility	Office address proof in form of incorporation certificate, utility bill, lease agreement/ rent agreement or ownership documents	Mandatory
6.	Additional requirements	Insurance details, signed copy of the 'Responsible Tourism Pledge', required NOCs and any other self-certifications as per these guidelines	Mandatory

Note: For the registration and renewal of ATOs undertaking air-based activities like Paragliding, Parasailing, Para Motoring, Hot Air Ballooning, the following additional documents are required:

1. NOC from the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, to ensure compliance with the National security and safety regulations (wherever applicable).
2. The owner of the ATO shall have necessary certification and relevant knowledge in air-based activities, to ensure competent management and operations.
3. The Department of Tourism will designate specified areas for conducting air-based activities within the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Note: If the operational area for any adventure activity conducted by the ATO falls under the protected/rural area, the ATO shall obtain necessary permissions from the concerned authority/ village panchayat and the NOC needs to be furnished at the time of submitting the application.

Note: Guides and instructors must adhere to specific adventure activity requirements, and evidence of certification from the requisite adventure courses must be attached to the application form.

VIII. Insurance

Securing insurance coverage is an essential obligation for the ATO. This insurance acts as a safeguard for both the ATOs and the individuals partaking in adventure activities. It is compulsory for the ATO to offer insurance coverage, guaranteeing financial protection for participants against potential accidents, injuries, or damages incurred during adventure activities. The specifics of the insurance prerequisites for

conducting adventure activities safely are detailed in Annexure 3, and it is imperative that all registered ATOs comply with these insurance requirements.

IX. Responsibilities of the Adventure Tour Operators (ATOs)

1. The ATO must specify their areas of expertise in adventure activities and keep all relevant maps and reference materials related to their chosen activities readily available at their office premises.
2. Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from participating in high-risk activities, whereas those aged 12 and above may engage in activities with moderate risk. Minors involved in adventure activities must be accompanied by an adult. It is imperative to follow the distinct guidelines set for each adventure activity, and ATOs bear the responsibility of maintaining the safety of these activities.
3. A guide must accompany every group participating in an adventure activity.
4. Individuals joining adventure activity groups must undergo preliminary training, and leaders must ensure participants possess the necessary skills for involvement.
5. All group participants should be trained in the use of radios if they are part of the equipment being used.
6. The manufacturer's specified capacity for adventure activity equipment must not be exceeded, and no unauthorized alterations should be made, except for additional safety features, nor should inferior materials be utilized.
7. ATOs must provide detailed information about the activity, operational area, duration, potential risks, and emergency contacts to the designated safety and rescue teams.
8. When available in India, graded distress signal devices should be offered to adventure tourism groups at reasonable prices.
9. Access to a qualified doctor on call is required.
10. Communication means such as mobile phones and walkie-talkies must be accessible.
11. ATOs must adhere to strict 'leave no trace' policy to uphold high environmental sustainability standards.
12. All SOPs and operational guidelines relevant to each adventure activity must be strictly followed to the letter.

X. Responsibilities of Guides

The ATOs are responsible for ensuring that their guides for adventure activities meet the following criteria:

1. Guides must hold the necessary technical qualifications and skills as outlined in these and activity-specific guidelines.
2. Guides must be well-versed in search procedures and provide thorough briefings to all group members.
3. Guides must be adept at navigating with maps and compasses under all weather conditions, both day and night.
4. Guides need to confirm that all participants are medically cleared for the adventure activity.
5. Guides must ensure that all equipment adheres to safety standards for the specific activity, has undergone manufacturer-recommended inspections, and is in suitable condition for use.

6. Guides must be knowledgeable about helicopter operations, including safe approach techniques and procedures for winching, when applicable.
7. Guides are required to be certified in first aid and capable of instructing others in first aid techniques, including the use of stretchers.

XI. Penalty & Caution

1. If the ATO or guide is found operating in violation of the terms & conditions of these guidelines and adventure activity specific guidelines, which includes but not limited to the failure on the part of the ATO or its authorized representative or guide to maintain the requisite standards, reports of un-hygienic conditions, unlawful activities, malpractices, misbehavior with customers, etc., the registration of the ATO or guide shall be liable for cancellation by the Department of Tourism directly, or on the recommendation of any competent authority of the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh.
2. Non-registered ATOs with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh shall not be permitted to operate in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
3. The Department of Tourism, or any other Department/ Authority of the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh shall, in no way be responsible for any claims on account of any mishap.

Note: The Department of Tourism, Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh reserves the right to modify the terms & conditions of the 'Registration and Renewal Guidelines for Adventure Tour Operators' from time to time, as deem appropriate.

Annexure 1
Application Form
New Registration and Renewal of Adventure Tour Operator

To,

Assistant Director (Tourism), Leh Assistant Director (Tourism), Kargil Tourist Officer, Zanskar
 Tourist Reception Centre,
 Near GPO, Leh 194101 Tourism Office,
 Kargil 194103 Padum,
 Zanskar 194302



1. New Registration Renewal (Registration No.) _____

2. Adventure Activity (name of all adventure activities from the list below, for which the registration is sought):

(1. All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Tours, 2. Bungee Jumping, 3. Mountain Biking & Cycling, 4. Skiing/ Snowboarding, 5. Snow Scooters, 6. Sandboarding, 7. Trekking, 8. Ziplining, 9. Rock Climbing, Artificial Wall Climbing, Abseiling and Ice Climbing, 10. Motorcycle Tour Operators, 11. Wildlife Tours, 12. Paragliding, 13. Parasailing, 14. Para Motoring, 15. Hot Air Ballooning, 16. Rafting, 17. Kayaking, 18. Jet Ski)

3. Name of the entity:

4. Details of the entity:

Registered Address			
Website		Mobile Number	
Email		Office Number	

5. Entity incorporation status (sole proprietorship/ partnership/ private/ public limited):

6. Year and month of establishment of entity:

7. GST registration details:

8. Name of Director/ Directors/ Proprietors:

S. No.	Name	Designation	Mobile Number	Aadhaar Number

--	--	--	--	--

9. Ladakh Resident Certificate (LRC) details:
10. Details of guide with required certification details:

Name	Role	Certifications	Mobile Number	Aadhaar Number

CV of the staff along with all certifications to be enclosed.

11. Proof of insurance:
12. Details of equipment:

Equipment	Specifications	Quantity	Purpose

Note: Should any ATO registered under these guidelines wish to initiate an additional adventure activity, they are required to promptly submit all relevant documents, including proof of certified guides and equipment, to the designated authority. Upon doing so, the ATO will be granted a new 'Registration Certificate' that encompasses all their adventure activities, retaining the validity period of their initial registration.

Annexure 2
Self-Declaration
New Registration and Renewal of Adventure Tour Operator

I/ We _____ do solemnly state that:

1. I/We commit to not exceeding the recommended capacity of the equipment.
2. I/We will conduct adventure sports activities exclusively within the zones authorized by the competent authority, as specified from time to time.
3. I/We will faithfully execute the approved adventure activity in accordance with the stipulations outlined in these guidelines.
4. I/We will comply with all directives issued by the competent authority as they arise.
5. I/We will ensure that my/our clients are equipped with the necessary safety gear before commencing the activity.
6. I affirm that the guides/instructors I employ for adventure activity operations possess the requisite educational qualifications, professional certifications, and practical experience to serve as professional guides for the specified adventure sports.
7. I/We will undertake adventure activities strictly within the designated zones as determined and will follow all instructions provided by the competent authority on an ongoing basis.
8. I/We acknowledge that any breach of these guidelines or submission of false information or misrepresentation may result in appropriate action by the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh against me/us.

Signature:

Name of the ATO:

Authorized Representative:

Designation:

Annexure 3
Insurance for Adventure & Allied Sports

While the outdoors and adventure activities are an enjoyable pursuit, unfortunate incidents can happen to anyone, anywhere despite the best training, equipment, infrastructure, and guidance. In India, where no specific adventure insurance policy exists, the past is witness to many situations where such specialized insurance would have been useful and immensely helpful.

With exponential increase in adventure tourism, especially among domestic tourists, there is an urgent need for specific insurance products, to cover all parties in the adventure sports ecosystem. The policies promote safety as well as showcase an understanding of risks involved in adventure undertakings in the outdoors. It creates a sense of professionalism among the operators, clients and the medical service providers. Better risk management, swift action and high value financial security due to the coverage will lead to many more people venturing in outdoor pursuits with a sense of calm and peace of mind. It's a vital component of the vast growth potential of Indian Adventure Tourism.

The insurance in the adventure ecosystem includes:

1. Adventure tour operators (ATOs)
2. Adventure professionals
3. Resorts and hotels
4. Clients
5. Gear
6. Liability

1. **Adventure Tour Operators:** An Adventure Tour Operator should have one of the three:

- a) Third party liability insurance*
- b) CGLI – Comprehensive General Liability Insurance*
- c) Tour operator liability insurance*
- d) Personal Accident (PA) and Group Medical Cover (GMC) for their staff
- e) D&O Insurance: Directors and officers liability insurance*. Liability for all parties is explained as a separate topic at the end

2. **Adventure Professionals:** They are the backbone of our industry, and they comprise guides, instructors, staff, porters, kitchen staff, etc. They must have an accidental insurance cover, which includes adventure, or extreme or hazardous activities, which will protect them in the outdoors. The accidental insurance should provide coverage for:

- a) Death & disabilities
- b) Accidental hospitalization
- c) Basic medical evacuation
- d) Repatriation covers

A more comprehensive coverage could include advance treatment cover, air evacuation covers, liability covers, sickness and medical covers, advance financial covers for the family and travel insurance coverage.

Financial Covers for the Family: This is very important as sudden accident or Injury of a breadwinner can create serious financial problems for the family. Some of the financial covers available in the market are:

- a) Children education cover
- b) Coma cover
- c) Compassionate visit
- d) Loan protector covers
- e) EMI covers

For porters or daily wageworkers, we can look into policy called workman compensation policy, which is used in various industries where daily wage workers are employed. *Independent guides/instructors should also have some sort of professional liability insurance cover.

3. **Clients:** We need policies, which will protect them 360 degrees. They should cover them on air, land, water and while on the mountains and ice. A basic adventure policy must have accidental protection or coverage for:

- a) Death & disabilities
- b) Accidental hospitalization
- c) Basic medical evacuation

More advance policies can have in addition to above-mentioned covers:

- a) Advance casualty evacuations with air/ heli-rescue
- b) Coma cover
- c) Financial covers

For extreme risk and people venturing over 5,000 mt. for any adventure activities including trekking and mountaineering, policy must have in addition to all of the above-mentioned covers:

- a) All kind of sicknesses like AMS, HAPE, HACE, frost bite, etc.
- b) Advance medical evacuation cover due to sickness and accidents
- c) Travel covers like missed connections, trip cancellations, etc.

For Medical Evacuations

- a) Basic cover for adventure in or near a city should be of Rs. 10,000 so as to at least offset the road ambulance costs.
- b) For Himalayas or altitude up to 5,000 mt., policy should have minimum of Rs. 25,000 – Rs. 50,000 to off sett long distance road ambulance cost/ taxi or jeep costs.

- c) For altitudes above 5,000 mt. a minimum of Rs. 3 Lakh to Rs. 4 Lakh should be included in the policy to cover the cost of air ambulance to the nearest medical facility plus the basic evacuation costs via foot or road ambulance.
- d) For extreme mountaineering and other expeditions, policy must have more than Rs. 5 Lakh of medical evacuation cover.

For Accidental & Sickness Hospitalization

- a) Basic cover for basic adventure activities should be equal to or more than Rs. 50,000.
- b) Medium level activities and Himalayan adventures up to 5,000 mt. should have cover for hospital treatments above Rs. 1,00,000.
- c) High altitude adventures and more serious adventure activities should have hospitalization above Rs. 2 Lakh.

For Death & Disabilities

- a) Basic cover should be equal to or more than Rs. 50,000.
- b) Medium and high-level activities and Himalayan adventures should have minimum cover above Rs. 1,00,000.

Note: There are many policies (mainly by PSU banks) that are offering coverage of a single amount to be divided in either of the heads mentioned in the policy. For example, policy for Rs. 2 Lakh for a person venturing outdoors will have cover for death and disability, accidental hospitalization and medical evacuation cover for maximum Rs. 2 Lakh. One can utilize the same for either hospitalization or medical evacuation or death. Now if someone gets rescued first and utilizes considerable amount for the same then the amount left for life saving treatments may not be enough!

*Thus, coverage should properly specify under each head, giving each head sufficient amount to be utilized in case of an emergency. In some of these high-risk PA (Personal Accident) covers, a person gets the claim for medical cover only if there is a claim for the main cover. Which essentially means, if a person gets injured and went in for treatment, his family will get the amount specified for the medical cover only if the person is dead. Else no claim will be given.

Adventure Resorts, Camps and Theme Parks

- a) Insurance for the clients – Basic accidental covers
- b) Insurance for the staff PA & GMC
- c) CGLI – Comprehensive General Liability Insurance
- d) D&O Insurance: Directors and officers liability insurance
- e) Fire and burglary insurance

Some of the covers available in the market are:

1. **Standard Fire and Special Perils:** Covers your property against loss or damage due to:

- a) Fire
- b) Lightning explosion/ implosion
- c) Aircraft damage
- d) Riot strike and malicious damage
- e) Storm, cyclone, typhoon, tempest hurricane, tornado, flood and inundation
- f) Impact damage due to rail, road. Vehicle or animal not belonging to insured, subsidence and landslide including rockslide
- g) Bursting and/ or overflowing of water tanks apparatus and pipes
- h) Missile testing operations
- i) Leakage from automatic sprinkler installations
- j) Bush fire
- k) Expense incurred on debris removal up to 1% of claim amount
- l) Expense incurred on architects surveyors and consulting engineers' fees up to 3% of claim amount
- m) Earthquake
- n) Terrorism cover
- o) Additional expense of rent for alternative accommodation
- p) Loss of rent

2. Adventure Equipment and Outdoor Gear Insurance: This is a new concept, which will insure an individual's, or a company's outdoor gear and equipment. Since the equipment is expensive plus there is a surge in people using expensive gadgets, photography equipment, GPS & communication devices, there is a need to insure them for tough terrains and harsh environments. It should cover loss, damage, and theft of adventure gear when in action.

3. Liability Insurance: Liability insurance provides a cover to an individual or an organization from the legal risk that they may be held liable for due to negligence, injury, or malpractices. It covers the cost of the legal proceedings and the pay-outs in case the insured is found legally liable. It excludes intentional damages and contractual liabilities. There are many types of Liability Insurance: Some of them are:

- a) Third party liability insurance
- b) CGLI – Comprehensive General Liability Insurance*
- c) D&O: Directors and officers liability insurance
- d) E&O: Errors and omissions liability
- e) Workman's compensation liability
- f) Professional liability
- g) Tour operator liability insurance

CGLI: Comprehensive General Liability Insurance: CGLI in simple terms, product and public liability insurance which is tailor made for an organization of any size and nature. The policy covers operations and premises liability, personal & bodily injury, advertising,

and medical payments etc. The coverage depends on the risk profile associated with a business and the total size of the business.

It covers the cost of the legal proceedings (defending or investigating the lawsuits) and the payouts in case the insured is found legally liable. It excludes intentional damages and contractual liabilities. As per CGLI, insurers retain the right to defend any suit against the insured, from bodily or property damages.

*Below are the extensions available for CGLI. Most of these covers are not part of plain public liability policy.

- a) **Act of God Perils** – Compensation on account of injury/ death of guests in hotel due to tsunami, earthquake, flood, etc.
- b) **Food & Beverage Liability** – Compensation on account of injury/ death of guests due to consumption of food and beverages served in hotel.
- c) **Lift Liability** - Compensation on account of injury/death of guests while they are in hotel lift/ escalators.
- d) **Other Facilities Liability** – Hotel's liability to pay compensation to guests because of injury/ death in other facilities like swimming pool, gymnasium, spa, etc.
- e) **Valet Parking Liability** – Compensation on account of physical damage to guest's car while being parked by hotel valet.
- f) **Travel of Executives** – Compensation to 3rd parties in case injury/ damage due to the hotel management while they travel.
- g) **Product Completed Operations Cover** – Compensation on account of injury/ death/ damage to 3rd parties due to products sold by the hotel (e.g. food, merchandise).
- h) **Sudden and Accidental Pollution Liability** – Compensation on account of injury/ death/ property damage to 3rd parties due to accidental pollution caused by the hotel.
- i) **Liability on account of events organized** – Compensation on account of injury/ death/ damage to 3rd parties in connection with events organized inside the hotel or by the hotel.
- j) **Damage to guest property under care control custody of the hotel** - Compensation on account of damage to bona fide guest property whilst under recorded custody of hotel.
- k) **Liability w.r.t tours organized by hotels** – Compensation on account of injury/ death/ damage to 3rd parties in connection with sightseeing tours organized by the hotel.
- l) **Innkeepers Liability** – Compensation on account of damage to guest property.
- m) **Liquor Liability Coverage** – Compensation on account of injury/ death of guest due to liquor consumption at hotel.

- n) **Incidental Medical Malpractices Liability Cover** – Compensation on account of injury/ death of guest due to negligence of the hotel doctor while providing first aid.
- o) **Liability on account of work done by contractual employees/ workers** – Compensation on account of injury/ death/ damage to 3rd parties due to negligence of the workers/ employees on contract with the hotel (e.g. cleaning, security, etc.).
- p) **Liability on account of construction/ maintenance projects at hotel** – Compensation on account of injury/ death/ damage to 3rd parties due to construction/ maintenance work in the hotel.
- q) **Additional insured cover** – Hotels can make their contractual parties e.g., brand owners, etc. an additional insured under CGL.
- r) **Waiver of subrogation clause** – By virtue of this clause we shall waive our subrogation rights against the additional insured.
- s) **Medical expenses clause** – The policy shall reimburse hotel the medical expenses incurred in order to offer first aid to the injured party (regardless of hotel's faults). The deductible doesn't apply to this coverage.
- t) **Fire Damage cover** – The policy shall cover hotel's liability to pay on account of property damage to the premises rented to them (arising out of heat from a hostile fire). This operates in case of fire insurance policy.
- u) **Terrorism legal liability cover** – Compensation to hotel on account of injury/ death/ damage to guests in event of a terrorist attack on the hotel.
- v) **Non-owned/ hired automobile liability cover** – Compensation to hotel on account of 3rd party injury/ damage in connection with automobiles non-owned/ hired & used in connection with hotel's business. It operates in xs of MV Act liability.
- w) **Personal & Advertising injury cover** – Under this the insured hotel is compensated for their liability on account of following:
 - I. False arrest, detention or imprisonment
 - II. Wrongful eviction or wrongful entry
 - III. Use of another's advertising idea in hotel's advertisement
 - IV. Infringing upon another's copyright, trade dress or slogan in hotel's advertisement.

D&O: Directors and Officers Liability Insurance: It's a liability for an organization's board of directors, management or office bearers, covering them against liability if the organization or the company is sued. It's an addition liability specific for the management or the decision makers over and above the liability protection present in an organization.

E&O: Errors and Omissions Liability: E&O covers an organization from the legal proceedings resulting from giving negligent professional services. Any service-oriented business charging a fee for their services should have this cover.

Annexure 4
Risk Assessment
Declaration & Liability Release

I acknowledge that I have voluntarily chosen to participate in the trip/s offered at _____ . I acknowledge that the enjoyment and excitement of adventure travel is derived in part from the inherent risks incurred by travel and activity beyond the accepted safety of life at home or at work and that these inherent risks contribute to such enjoyment, being a reason for my participation. I also am aware that medical services may not be readily available or accessible while I am participating in the trip.

Although precautions are taken to provide a safe and enjoyable experience, there can be no guarantee of absolute safety against injury and accident. There are significant elements of risk in any adventure activity associated with the outdoors or wilderness including but not limited to All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Tours, Bungee Jumping, Mountain Biking & Cycling, Mountaineering, Skiing, Trekking, Ziplining, Rock Climbing, Artificial Wall Climbing & Abseiling, Motorcycle Tour Operators, Wildlife Tours, Paragliding, Para Motoring, Hot Air Ballooning, Rafting and Kayaking, and the use of related equipment.

I also recognize that I am undertaking an active holiday that contains an inherent element of personal risk, and that risk does sometime become a reality. I acknowledge the relative remoteness, weather conditions, and the limited and relatively primitive medical and other services available, as well as the greater potential dangers compared with my usual daily life, or conventional holiday travel. Not only do I accept these realities, I have chosen to seek them out. I take full responsibility and I accept the authority and decisions of _____ and its representatives in respect to the journey that I have applied to join. I also am in sound medical health of suffer from no cardiac illness or any other medical disorder which will hamper my participation in the activity.

I have also been given the safety briefing upon arrival, which covers all aspects of safety while I am in the care of _____. I have also been made aware of all risks in all these activities that I undertake with _____. I hereby undertake to strictly abide by the safety briefing which I have heard, read and understood all aspects of my undertaking. If I act in contravention of the understanding of the safety briefing and the “no swimming” in the river rule, I shall be personally liable, and shall not hold _____ responsible for any consequences that may follow from my actions in contravention of the safety briefing. I also agree to abide by all rules that the outfit and its guides have instructed me on, keeping in mind the nature of the holiday I have chosen, and in the sensitive Reserved Forest Area I am visiting.

In consideration and payment for the right to my being permitted to participate in the trip, I have and do hereby fully assume all risk of illness, injury or death. Furthermore, I hereby release and discharge from liability and indemnify and agree not to sue _____, their owners, officers, agents, contracted tour operators and employees and other persons or entities involved with providing the

opportunity to take part in the trip, regardless of the cause of my illness, injury or death from all actions, claims or demands for injury or damage resulting from my participation in the trip.

I have carefully read this agreement. I understand that it is a release of liability and contract between me and _____ and/or its contracted tour operators or affiliated organizations and sign it of my free will.

Signature:

Name:

Place:

Date:

Annexure 5
First Aid/ CPR

WILDERNESS FIRST AID

“First aid” is defined as helping behaviors and initial care provided for an acute illness or injury”. First aid can be initiated by anyone in any situation. “First aid provider” is defined as someone trained in first aid who should a) Recognize, assess, and prioritize the need for first aid; b) Provide care by using appropriate competencies; c) Recognize limitations, and seek additional care when needed.

‘First Aid Training’ is defined as a course of study that builds the outlined competencies & skills in an adventure guide that can be evidenced through a summative assessment and is periodically refreshed through practice.

Note: A First Aid Training provider must be registered with national / international bodies & forums that provide accreditations and guidelines for the said training based on globally accepted standards.

Descriptor: This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to provide first aid response, life support, management of casualty(s), the incident and other first aiders, until the arrival of medical or other assistance.

Application: These skills and knowledge may be applied in a range of situations, including community and outdoor settings. Application of these skills and knowledge should be contextualized as required to address specific activity, terrain or workplace requirements and to address specific risks and hazards and associated injuries.

ELEMENTS & PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

1. Elements define the essential outcomes of a unit of competency
2. Performance Criteria specify the level of performance required to demonstrate achievement of the element.

ELEMENT:

1. ASSESS THE SITUATION

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA:

- a) Identify, assess and minimize hazards in the situation that may pose a risk of injury or illness to self and others.
- b) Minimize immediate risk to self and casualty’s health and safety by controlling any hazard in accordance with safety requirements.
- c) Assess casualty and identify injuries, illnesses and conditions.

ELEMENT:

2. APPLY FIRST AID PROCEDURES

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA:

- a) Calmly provide information to reassure casualty, adopting a communication style to match the casualty's level of consciousness.
- b) Use available resources and equipment to make the casualty as comfortable as possible.
- c) Respond to the casualty in a culturally aware, sensitive and respectful manner.
- d) Determine and explain the nature of casualty's injury/condition and relevant first aid procedures to provide comfort.
- e) Seek consent from casualty prior to applying first aid management.
- f) Provide first aid management in accordance with established first aid principles and IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross) / ILCOR (International Liaison Committee On Resuscitation), Guidelines and/or State/ Territory regulations, legislation and policies and industry requirements.
- g) Seek first aid assistance from others in a timely manner and as appropriate.
- h) Correctly operate first aid equipment as required for first aid management according to manufacturer/supplier's instructions and local policies and/or procedures.
- i) Use safe manual handling techniques as required.
- j) Monitor patient's condition and respond in accordance with effective first aid principles and procedures.
- k) Finalize patient management according to patient's needs and first aid principles.

ELEMENT:**3. COMMUNICATE DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT****PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- a) Request ambulance support and/or appropriate medical assistance according to relevant circumstances using relevant communication media and equipment.
- b) Accurately convey assessment of patient's condition and management activities to ambulance services /other emergency services/relieving personnel.
- c) Prepare reports as appropriate in a timely manner, presenting all relevant facts according to established procedures.
- d) Accurately record details of patient's physical condition, changes in conditions, management and response to management in line with established procedures.
- e) Maintain confidentiality of records and information in line with privacy principles and statutory and/or organization policies.

ELEMENT:**4. EVALUATE OWN PERFORMANCE****PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- a) Seek feedback from appropriate clinical expert.
- b) Recognize the possible psychological impacts on rescuers of involvement in critical incidents.
- c) Participate in debriefing/evaluation as appropriate to improve future response and address individual needs.

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

This describes the essential skills and knowledge and their level required for this unit.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE: The guide must be able to demonstrate essential knowledge required to effectively do the task outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage the task and manage contingencies in the context of the identified work role. This includes knowledge of:

- a) IFRC/ILCOR guidelines relating to provision of First Aid & CPR.
- b) Awareness of stress management techniques and available support.
- c) First aid management of: abdominal injuries, allergic reactions, altered and loss of consciousness, bleeding, burns – thermal, chemical, friction, electrical, cardiac arrest, Patient with no signs of life, chest pain, choking/airway obstruction, injuries: cold and crush injuries; eye and ear injuries; head, neck and spinal injuries; minor skin injuries; needle stick injuries; soft tissue injuries including sprains, strains, dislocations, envenomation - snake, spider, insect and marine bites, respiratory distress, seizures, shock, stroke.
- d) Environmental impact such as hypothermia, hyperthermia, dehydration, heat stroke, fractures, medical conditions, including cardiac conditions, epilepsy, diabetes, asthma and other respiratory conditions, near drowning, poisoning and toxic substances (including chemical contamination).
- e) Social/Legal Issues: Substance misuse - common drugs and alcohol, including illicit drugs, duty of care, need to be culturally aware, sensitive and respectful, importance of debriefing, confidentiality.
- f) Working knowledge of basic occupational health and safety requirements in the provision of first aid basic principles and concepts underlying the practice of first aid, chain of survival, BLS (Basic Life Support), & CPR # (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation), first aiders' skills and limitations, infection control principles and procedures, including use of standard precautions, priorities of management in first aid when dealing with life threatening conditions, procedures for dealing with major and minor injury and illness.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS: It is critical that the guide demonstrate the ability to effectively do the task outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage the task and manage contingencies in the context of the identified work role. This includes the ability to:

- a) Apply first aid principles.
- b) Call an ambulance and/or medical assistance according to relevant circumstances and report casualty's condition.
- c) Communicate effectively and assertively in an incident.
- d) Conduct an initial patient assessment.
- e) Demonstrate correct procedures for performing CPR using a manikin, including standard precautions.
- f) Demonstrate:
 - ability to call an ambulance
 - consideration of the welfare of the patient
 - safe manual handling
 - site management to prevent further injury

- g) Evaluate own response and identify appropriate improvements where required.
- h) Infection control, including use of standard precautions.
- i) Make prompt and appropriate decisions relating to managing an incident in the wilderness.
- j) Plan an appropriate first aid response in line with established first aid principles, policies and procedures, IFRC/ILCOR/ AHA Guidelines and/or State/Territory regulations, legislation and policies and industry requirements and respond appropriately to contingencies in line with own skills.
- k) Prepare a written incident report or provide information to enable preparation of an incident report.
- l) Provide assistance with self-medication as per subject's own medication regime and in line with State/Territory legislation, regulations and policies and any available medical/pharmaceutical instructions.

CPR & BLS CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION/BASIC LIFE SUPPORT: BLS is the foundation for saving lives after cardiac arrest. Fundamental aspects of adult BLS include immediate recognition of sudden cardiac arrest and activation of the emergency response system, early CPR, and rapid defibrillation with an automated external defibrillator (AED). Initial recognition and response to heart attack and stroke are also considered part of BLS.

RISK MITIGATION: The most important aspect of being trained in first aid is to try and avoid situations where one has to use it. Keeping this in mind, it is important that the guide does the following before and during conducting any adventure activity:

- a) Identify areas or zones where potential for serious injury is possible and avoid those places.
- b) Communicate with client about medical history (previous injuries and illness, allergies, food allergies).
- c) Recognize if the participant is under the influence of alcohol/ illicit drugs.
- d) Determine whether or not participant is fit for the activity.
- e) Have the knowledge /ability and experience to tone down the adventure depending on prevailing conditions, fitness and experience of the client/s.

BUILDING A FIRST AID KIT:

CONSIDERATIONS:

1. **Group Size:** Kits for bigger groups simply include more supplies like bandages and pain meds. Medical tools like thermometers, tweezers or splints remain fairly constant from kit to kit.
2. **Trip Length/Distance.**
3. **Trip Activity:** Include a fully waterproof pouch that makes a kit suited to paddling. Smaller, lighter kits are appropriate when you're planning light-and-fast pursuits like trail running. Bigger, more comprehensive kits make sense for supported expeditions.
4. **Trip Risks:** Example: If you're headed where nettles and ticks are concerns, consider adding a itch treatment and tick- specific tool to your kit.
5. **Special Needs:** On group trips, survey members so that everyone is aware of special supplies in the kit.

6. Include any personal items such as medications and emergency phone numbers or other items your health-care provider may suggest.
7. Check the kit regularly for expiration dates and replace any used or out-of-date contents.

SAMPLE FIRST AID KIT (~ HIKING GROUP OF 4)

1. 2 Absorbent compress dressings (5 x 9 inches)
2. 25 Adhesive band-aids (assorted sizes)
3. 1 Adhesive cloth tape (1 inch)
4. Antibiotic ointment
5. 5 Antiseptic wipe packets
6. 2 Packets of aspirin (81 mg each)
7. Painkillers
8. 1 Blanket (space blanket)
9. 1 Breathing barrier (with one-way valve)
10. 2 Pair of non-latex gloves
11. 2 Hydrocortisone ointment packets (approximately 1 gram each)
12. Scissors
13. 1 Roller bandage (3 inches wide)
14. 1 Crepe Bandage
15. 5 Sterile gauze pads (3 x 3 inches)
16. Oral thermometer (non-mercury/no glass)
17. 2 Triangular bandages
18. Tweezers
19. Trauma Shears/Scissors
20. Butterfly Stitches

Annexure 6
Responsible Tourism Pledge

"As a registered Adventure Tour Operator (ATO) undertaking adventure activity operations in the Union Territory of Ladakh, I/ We pledge to be the guardian of responsible and sustainable tourism, conquering new frontiers with a sense of purpose. With unwavering dedication towards the Union Territory of Ladakh, I commit to safeguarding the environment, preserving local culture, educating my guests, supporting the local economy, prioritizing safety, and practicing fair business principles. I embark on this journey, driven by a passion to leave a positive impact in the Union Territory of Ladakh. I will run the operations with respect, empathy, and a sense of adventure, ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come, leaving behind a legacy of exhilaration and responsible exploration."

- 1. LEAVE NO TRACE POLICY:** We will leave our campsites, trails and areas of operation cleaner than we find them. We will not pollute or let others pollute our water bodies. We will set up our camps, toilets, kitchens and washing areas, away from any water source and ensure that no discharge goes into the water bodies. We will minimize campfire and noise pollution impact and be mindful of other adventurers in the area. We will use existing trails and campsites and avoid making new ones.
- 2. IMPACT ON LOCAL COMMUNITY:** We will have a positive impact on local communities in our area of operation. We will encourage local employment, skill development and purchase locally where possible. We will respect local traditions and customs.
- 3. SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES:** We will follow sustainable practices during our operations and encourage waste segregation, recycling, use of renewable energy sources and proper disposal of waste. We will encourage other operators in our area of operation, to follow sustainable practices.
- 4. CARBON FOOTPRINT:** We will be mindful of our carbon footprint and endeavor to offset it, where possible, by planting trees and minimizing our footprint by using renewable energy sources, efficient fuel sources, vehicles with low emissions and by avoiding use of wood for cooking.
- 5. CUSTODIANS OF OUR NATURAL HERITAGE:** We will function as guardians and custodians of our natural heritage and the areas we operate in, follow all rules and regulations and respect and protect our fauna, flora, avi fauna and coral reefs. We will report any wrong doings to the authorities.
- 6. FOLLOW SUSTAINABLE TOURISM CRITERIA OF INDIA (STCI) IN LETTER AND SPIRIT:** We will make a sincere effort to understand and implement the 'Sustainable Tourism Criteria of India' in our operations, in letter and spirit. We will also educate our staff about the criteria. We will ensure the safety and security of women travelers, take steps to prevent child abuse and have a zero-tolerance policy for the same.

Signature:

Name of the ATO:

Authorized Representative:

Designation:

Annexure 7**Non-Exhaustive list of Institutes providing training in Adventure Activity Courses**

S. No.	Institutes	Website	Address
1.	Nehru Institute of Mountaineering	http://www.nimindia.net/	Uttarkashi, Barahat Range, Uttarakhand 249193
2.	Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, West Bengal	https://hmidarjeeling.com/	Jawahar Parbat, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101
3.	Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports	https://abvimas.org/	MDR 29, Aleo, Opp. Hotel Honeymoon, Manali, HP 175131
4.	The Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports	www.jawaharinstitutepahalgam.com	Nunwan, Anantnag District, Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir 192126
5.	National Institute of Water Sports	http://niws.nic.in/	Caranzalem, Taleigao, Panaji, Goa 403004
6.	Indian Institute of Skiing & Mountaineering	http://www.iismgulmarg.in/	Near, Golf Club Rd, Near IISM, Gulmarg, Forest Block, Jammu & Kashmir 193403

Note: The aforementioned list of institutes providing specialized courses in adventure activities is not comprehensive. Applicants or guides are required to acquire the necessary certification in adventure activities from institutes that are recognized at the national or international level.

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Tours

Guidelines and Regulations

**Department of Tourism
Union Territory of Ladakh**



Guidelines and Regulations for All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Tours

1. Introduction

ATVs (also known as quad bikes), when operated properly, can be exciting and safe. However, their incorrect use can lead to serious injuries. Though ATVs are very similar to cars & motorcycles, their operation is very different. ATV operation requires a different level of instruction and training. These minimum standards have been outlined to promote safe practices among operators of ATV tours.

2. Guides/ Instructors

Guides supervising participants on All Terrain Vehicles (ATV). Accreditation given by any International Institute may be accepted. Alternatively, the guide should have a driver's training course on All Terrain Vehicle (ATV), or a valid license from the Regional Transport Office (RTO), Union Territory of Ladakh, or should have completed an in-house training program that focuses on the following topics:

1. An introduction to the ATV machine, protective clothing, equipment, and pre-ride inspections
2. Range signals, rules, and warm-up exercises
3. Controls and starts the engine
4. Starting, shifting gears, and braking
5. Turning
6. Riding strategies/ risk awareness
7. Riding circles and figures of eight
8. Quicker turns
9. Sharp turns
10. Quick stops and swerves
11. A quick stop in a turn
12. Riding over obstacles
13. Safe and responsible driving practices
14. U-turns and traversing hills
15. Circuit or trail rides

In addition, all guides must be familiar with (and assessed on) the operating manual(s) of the ATV(s) in which they operate.

3. Customer Training

ATV operators should always follow the instruction in their owner's manual for recommended operating techniques. All participants of an ATV tour must receive a basic training course before their tour commences. The basic minimum training course should cover the following:

1. To mount and sit on the ATV correctly, locate and operate the controls, and dismount.
2. Use the brakes properly to bring ATV to a smooth, safe stop.

3. To demonstrate basic turning skills by shifting weight properly to maintain balance and avoid the possibility of losing control of the ATV.
4. All participants must pay attention to the instructions provided by their guides.

4. Equipment

1. **ATV Machine:** ATVs are subject to considerable wear and tear owing to the nature of their use outdoors. Therefore, only use an ATV from a reputable manufacturer and ensure maintenance is undertaken as per operating manual instructions.
2. **Helmet:** The single most important piece of protective gear riders must wear is a helmet, which can help prevent serious head injuries. Wearing an approved motorcycle helmet does not reduce essential vision and hearing. Use either a full-face or three-quarter (open face) helmet. Helmets must be properly fitted to the participant – they should be snug, comfortable, and securely fastened.
3. **Face Shield or Goggles:** If the ATV tour is in a jungle or areas with dense foliage, a face shield or goggles should be used to prevent eye injuries.
4. **Gloves:** Gloves should be of a quality that will help prevent your hands from getting sore, tired, or cold, as well as offering protection in the event of a spill/ fall. Off-road style gloves, available at leading motorcycle and ATV dealerships, provide the best combination of protection and comfort. They are padded over the knuckles for added protection.
5. **Footwear:** The minimum protective footwear is a pair of ankle-length shoes or boots with low heels to help prevent feet from slipping off the footrests.
6. **Clothing:** It is important to protect your skin from scratches. A long-sleeved jersey/ sweater, shirt or t-shirt, and long trousers are requirements for rider protection.
7. **Spares & First Aid:** It is recommended that guides carry an appropriate first aid kit and tool kit during an ATV tour. Examine the tool kit that came with your machine.

5. Inspections and Maintenance Procedures

Before commencing each trip, guides must carry out an inspection of any ATV to be used by themselves or their customers before each ride. An inspection will minimize the chance of injury or malfunction and ensure long-term usage of your ATV.

The ASI uses the following basic T-CLOC checklist: (T-CLOC stands for Tyres and Wheels, Controls and Cables, Lights and Electrics, Oil and Fuel, Chain/Drive Shaft and Chassis).

6. SOPs and Operating Instructions

The following rules should apply to all participants and guides during an ATV tour:

1. All participants must wear a helmet and other protective equipment.
2. Always keep both hands on the handlebars and both feet on the footrests of the ATV during operation.
3. Avoid paved surfaces – ATVs are designed to be operated off paved roads.

4. Avoid public roads unless the machine has been specifically manufactured for this purpose and complies with the relevant automotive licensing requirements for road use.
5. Never allow riding under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
6. Never carry a passenger unless the machine has been specifically designed and manufactured to do so.
7. Ride only on designated trails and at a safe speed as mandated by the manufacturer of the machine.
8. Extreme care must be taken not to undertake random off-roading as it has a deep impact on the ecology of the area.
9. **ATV Capacity:** All ATV ride operators must strictly adhere to the manufacturer's seating capacity, ensuring that no ATV is overloaded. ATVs are designed with specific safety parameters, & unauthorized modifications to increase seating capacity is strictly prohibited.
10. Overloading ATVs compromises the stability and control of the vehicle, significantly heightening the risk of accidents that can lead to serious injuries or fatalities. Operators found violating this safety standard will face immediate suspension of their registration and shall be liable for appropriate action as deemed necessary by the Competent Authority.

7. Special Arrangements for Children

1. Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from participating in high-risk activities, whereas those aged 12 and above may engage in activities with moderate risk. Minors involved in adventure activities must be accompanied by an adult.
2. Always follow the manufacturer's minimum age recommendations which will be shown on the ATV or in the operating manual.

8. Documentation

The following is the basic minimum documentation required:

1. ATV and associated equipment purchase documentation, including warranty, service & maintenance history documentation.
2. Owner's/ operating manual for each ATV.
3. Training and assessment log for all guides.
4. First aid certificates for all guides.

9. Risk Mitigation

A basic risk assessment should be conducted on any trail intended for the use of ATV tours before participants are permitted to use such a route. An emergency action plan must be in position and regular training imparted to the staff for the same.

10. Emergencies and Rescues

A first aid kit must be available and the venue/route itself must be easily accessible. In addition, a detailed emergency procedure must be written that includes contact numbers of the available emergency

services. Evacuation routes and emergency procedures must also be included in the company's risk assessment.

11. Safety Briefing

A pre-ride safety briefing covering all aspects of risks and action to be taken both by conducting staff and the participants should be covered in detail, some aspects are highlighted below:

1. Rules and speed limits
2. Wearing protective gear
3. ATV controls operation and pre-ride checks
4. Rider responsibilities and risk awareness
5. Group riding procedure to include lane position, following other vehicles, headlights, signals, and parking
6. Handling dangerous surfaces and any special riding conditions
7. Indemnity bond by the participant
8. Avoiding alcohol before/during the ride
9. Staying hydrated and rest stops.

12. Medical Concerns

These are of two types: personal and accident-related during the ride.

1. For personal medical conditions, clients should be advised to carry medication and inform the ride leader.
2. For accident-related concerns, the ride leader should have a plan in addition to a first aid kit.

13. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant of recognition must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The owner must possess the 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. The agency must own ATVs and all accessories and safety gear as specified above. The ATVs must be well maintained, serviced and in perfect working order with the required documentation.
3. The agency must have at least two full-time trained ATV guides duly qualified, knowledgeable about conducting ATV activity safely, group dynamics, rules, communication skills, repairs/ punctures, etc. They must possess valid first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
4. The operator must have SOPs for conducting ATV trips and an emergency action plan for all trips.
5. A detailed risk assessment must be carried out before conducting ATV trips.
6. A list of hospitals in the vicinity of the tour should be carried out by the ATV guides.
7. A detailed SOP for inspecting ATVs, documentation, and safety gear before conducting trips must be in position.

8. The agency must be registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
9. The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace policy' and conform to high sustainability standards.

Bungee Jumping

Guidelines and Regulations

Department of Tourism
Union Territory of Ladakh



Guidelines and Regulations for Bungee Jumping

1. Introduction

Bungee jumping is a land-based extreme adventure sports activity in which the jumper is made to jump from a height with a rubber cord tied to his ankle. It is an extremely dangerous activity if proper precautions are not taken, and safety procedures are not followed. However, once the safety procedures are followed and the jump platform is constructed according to safety guidelines this activity is very safe, and the chances of accidents are greatly reduced.

2. Guides/ Instructors

The jump staff particularly the jump master should be properly trained and have vast experience in this activity. They should possess a calm and mature attitude and have an eye for detail/ errors. They require a very high level of physical fitness, self-discipline, excellent communication, and risk management skills, and the motivation to perform these activities.

3. Equipment

The equipment used for the bungee jump should be certified and procured from reputed companies. The storage and maintenance of the equipment have to be proper. Regular inspection of the equipment should be carried out and records should be maintained. No unauthorized person should have access to the equipment. All the discarded equipment should be removed from the site and destroyed.

Rubber has to be procured from a reputed and recognized source. Its shelf life should be recorded. The rubber has to be stored in a cool dark place and saved from UV rays. Regular inspections should be carried out. Bungee cords should be made by the jump master and certified. The record of jumps must be maintained.

4. Inspections and Maintenance Procedures

The inspection should be done as per the safety manual. Daily, weekly and yearly inspections should be carried out and recorded. The record of all inspections should be entered in the safety log to be maintained at the site. Regular maintenance of the equipment being used must be done and recorded.

5. SOPs and Operating Instructions

Since there are no Indian standards, it is recommended that operations are carried out as per Australian and New Zealand standards. No dilution in these standards is acceptable. The site should have SOPs for operations and rescue drills. The age limit for bungee jumping is 12-70 years. The minimum weight allowed for a jump is 40 kg and the maximum weight allowed is 110 kg. Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from participating in high-risk activities, whereas those aged 12 and above may engage in activities with moderate risk. Minors involved in adventure activities must be accompanied by an adult.

6. Documentation

The following documents are required to be maintained at the site:

1. Record of equipment
2. Safety log
3. Maintenance log
4. Record of rubber
5. Jump log
6. Incident folders
7. Medical record
8. First aid kit record
9. Insurance record
10. Staff training record
11. Dossier of jumpmaster

7. Risk Mitigation

The following measures will reduce the risk factor:

1. Every Jump should be treated as a first jump
2. A highly experienced person should be appointed as the jump master
3. Jump master's word should be final and binding
4. Continuous training of the staff
5. Regular testing of the staff
6. Regular practice of rescue drills
7. Inspection and updating of the equipment
8. Recording of the jumps
9. All incidents are to be reported, discussed, and recorded
10. Updating of safety procedures
11. Motivation and welfare of the staff

8. Emergencies and Rescues

The staff should be fully prepared to deal with emergencies and carry out rescue as per the SOP without looking for orders and in a minimum time frame. The following will help in mitigating risk:

1. Awareness of risks
2. Training in rescues
3. First aid/ CPR & other medical training of the staff
4. An Emergency Action Plan should be in position and training for the same provided periodically to the staff
5. Doctor on call
6. Rescue evacuation to be worked out
7. Tie up with local hospital
8. Procedure for reporting incidents

9. Insurance of the jumpers and staff
10. Funds earmarked and available for medical cover
11. Regular briefing of the staff

9. Safety Briefing

A safety briefing is to be given personally by the jump master and an audio-visual briefing is also recommended. The disclaimer form should be signed by the jumpers. Safety briefing should be repeated before the activity. The safety measures should be displayed in several places prominently.

10. Medical Concerns

The medical restrictions should be displayed prominently. Fitness certificate to be signed by the jumpers. No compromise is to be made in case of any medical problem. Medical restrictions for bungee jumping include:

1. Heart problem
2. High blood pressure
3. Neurological disorder
4. Spondylitis
5. Back issues
6. Recent fracture, surgery, or hospitalization
7. Epilepsy
8. Osteoporosis
9. Pregnancy

11. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

Since there are no Indian standards, it is recommended that operations are carried out as per New Zealand standards (AS/NZS 5848:2000). This standard specifies and gives guidance on the site and site approval, the design, testing, and approval of equipment, the management of the operation, the operating procedures, the emergency provisions and procedures and registration of operating staff of a bungee jumping operation. No dilution in these standards is acceptable.

It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant of recognition must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The owner must possess the 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. The entity must own specialized certified equipment commensurate with the needs of undertaking and running such an operation (listed above).
3. The entity must have qualified personnel (minimum one qualified jumpmaster & one assistance) on their payroll. These personnel must carry the requisite experience in the activity and have valid first aid & CPR certification.
4. The entity must operate with the required permits/ licenses.

5. The agency must be registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
6. The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace policy' and conform to high sustainability standards.
7. The site may provide facilities for mild adventure such as trampoline, swing, etc.

The background of the image is a vast, rugged mountain range with dark, rocky peaks. In the lower foreground, a person wearing a yellow jacket and a helmet is riding a bicycle. The sky is clear and blue.

Mountain Biking & Cycling

Guidelines and Regulations

Department of Tourism
Union Territory of Ladakh

Guidelines and Regulations for Mountain Biking & Cycling

1. Adventure Guides/ Instructors: Basic Minimum Qualifications and Experience

While there are no technical criteria or qualifications required, these are experiences that will help a tour leader ensure a successful trip:

1. Experience of being in the saddle and riding the distance covered per day. This will ensure that they are alert and not fighting their fatigue. In a staged tour that lasts multiple days, the guests will experience cumulative fatigue; the tour leader cannot be in the same position. They need to have spent time cycling, so they do not experience saddle soreness and can help their charges and ensure a good experience for them.
2. Knowledge of the terrain being traversed, potential hazards of that area, and typical weather conditions, in addition to knowledge of Hindi, English, and or local language are required.
3. The knowledge to assess which customer needs what size of helmet and how to tighten or loosen the various straps to ensure a snug fit on their heads.
4. First aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross or an equivalent body, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
5. Basic knowledge of bike maintenance while on tour and fixing issues such as punctures, gears not working well, and other minor repairs.
6. Owning a government-authorized identity card and keeping it with them for the duration of the tour.

2. Training

No specific training is required to be a cycling tour operator in Ladakh. However, it is helpful if the organizers meet the basic qualifications listed above. It will go a long way towards ensuring the safety and well-being of the clients and ATO's own confidence in its operation.

3. Equipment

Tour operators usually give their clients the option of bringing their own bicycles or providing bicycles to them.

- In the former case, the minimum materials needed would be spares, tyres, tubes, tyre levers, patch kits, brake and gear cables and their housing, chains, chain links, lubricants, floor pump with presta and shredder valves, multi tool or allen keys, small screw drivers, duct tape and zip ties.
- In the latter case, in addition to the above, add bicycle specific spare components such as brake shoes, drive train components, spokes, spoke wrench, etc.
- Bikes should be delivered to the clients fully built and ready to ride after individual saddle height adjustments.

4. Cycling Grades

It is important to categorize the biking/ road cycling itinerary with proper grades so that the clients can choose their trip as per their level of fitness and preparedness:

- **Grade 1:** Easy - For those new to cycling or who don't have a high level of fitness. Easy combination of flatter or gently undulating routes. For riders seeking a very relaxed holiday. Beginners: 20-40 miles/ 30-60 kms. per day.
- **Grade 2:** Gentle - On undulating or rolling terrain, occasional moderate/ challenging climbs. No high-altitude ascents & the odd short steep climbs. For semi-regular riders/ relative novices wishing to gain experience & fitness. 40-50 miles/ 60-80 kms. per day.
- **Grade 3:** Moderate - For riders with experience, good fitness & a decent level of skill. Some features that may be experienced more frequently in a higher-grade tour. Most days include a couple of significant climbs. Some long days & some steep to very steep sections. Not for beginners. 45-60 miles/ 70-95 kms. per day.
- **Grade 4:** Challenging - For cyclists with stamina & a good level of fitness. Long challenging days with multiple tough or high-altitude ascents, with steep sections over extended distances. Long & often technically demanding descents. Road riding for experienced riders. 45-95 miles/ 80-160 kms. per day.
- **Grade 5:** Demanding - Designed for cyclists with good stamina and a high level of fitness. Consecutively long, challenging days with multiple serious or high-altitude ascents. Frequent steep or very steep stages occasionally over extended distances. Includes long and often technically demanding descents. Serious road riding for experienced riders only. 60-100 miles/ 95-160 kms. per day.

5. Equipment Care and Maintenance

Maintaining the bicycles is critical to ensure every group of customers has a good experience. To do so, here are components of the trip that need care:

1. Bicycles

- I. Ensure the bicycles are given care after every trip. This would include:
 - Cleaning the bicycle
 - Lubricating the chain
 - Drivetrain service
 - Check chain health
 - Check brake and gear cable tension
- II. Get a complete strip-down service done with a trusted bicycle shop, for each bicycle every 1000 kms. You should get from them, a list of jobs carried out per cycle, and parts replaced, and have a sense of how long each of the parts is likely to last.
- III. If the bicycles have been through tough rocky terrain or a muddy region, inspection for damage and/ or sending them for inspection to a bicycle shop is recommended.

2. Helmets

- I. Cycling helmets by respectable brands, stocked for all sizes from extra small (XS) to extra large (XL)
- II. It is mandatory to use helmets on all rides and at all times

3. Lights

- I. Headlights: Headlights that are powerful enough to see the road at night/ in foggy or rainy conditions. Typically, headlights with mounts can be removed easily when the bikes are being left by themselves
- II. Taillamps: Taillamps that are powerful enough to be visible and provide the option of rapid blinking, so they are more visible to oncoming motor vehicles
- III. Spare batteries for each of the lights.

4. Material Carrying Equipment & Safety Equipment

- I. Panniers and racks for luggage
- II. Bungee cords to tie additional material to the bike rack
- III. Cable locks to lock the rear tyre, possibly the front tyre, and the frame of the bicycle to a pole, a gate, or similar construction

6. SOPs and Operating Instructions

1. SOPs:

- I. Inspect gears 1-2 days before travel.
- II. Check weather conditions.
- III. Reach out to all service providers enroute and get confirmations, if possible, by email of the terms of agreement with them.
- IV. Check cash, cheque, and card usage enroute and ensure there are sufficient funds.

2. Operating Instructions:

- I. Give all customers a safety briefing at the start of the tour, such as not riding more than two abreast, right of way to larger vehicles, hand signals, and following instructions of the tour leader.
- II. Explain to them how the bicycle gear function.
- III. Get them used to riding on seat posts, heights that are higher than what they are likely to be used to, from childhood if these are inexperienced cyclists.
- IV. Explain the importance of a helmet to be worn at all times on the saddle, the right way to wear one snugly, and the importance of wearing a helmet of the correct size.
- V. Check for medication clients are on and ensure that they are carrying sufficient dosage for the duration of the tour.
- VI. In the case of self-guided trips, the guides MUST give the travelers a briefing of do's & don't including how to engage with the locals and where to stop/ not stop.
- VII. Self-guided riders must check in with the local operator daily to update them on their well-being.

7. Documentation

1. Maintain a logbook of all gear (cycles, helmets, racks, panniers, backpacks, lights, locks, etc.).
2. Copies of permits to enter a region, if relevant.
3. Copies of the tour operator's credentials.
4. Copies of the identity and emergency contact details of each client.

5. Mandatory insurance copies of each client.
6. List of doctors & hospitals as well as ambulance providers along the route.
7. List of reliable bicycling stores (which manage the cycle brands being used) along the route.
8. Emergency action plan.

8. Risk Mitigation

Risk to Humans:

1. Recommend a comprehensive medical checkup before a tour. Ask for a doctor's certificate of fitness while signing up for the trip, if the distance and terrain are challenging.
2. Ensure customers have medical insurance and that copies of the insurance are handed over to the guide before the start of the trip.
3. Ensure you have information like blood group, known allergies, known medical conditions, and emergency contact persons (at least two names and numbers).
4. An indemnity form signed by each tour participant states that they are taking sole responsibility for their well-being during the trip and this legally keeps the tour leader and touring company safe.
5. In the case of self-guided trips, a detailed briefing covering the cultural situation in India, the safety of women, etc. should be given before the commencement of the trip.

Equipment Risk: Tour operators must ensure that:

1. A comprehensive first-aid kit is carried on the trip. Ensure that all medicines are within the expiry period.
2. All bicycles are in good condition to ride – this should be confirmed by a service professional.
3. Lights (headlights and taillamps) on all bicycles.
4. Helmets for all riders.
5. A support vehicle is close-by at all times.
6. In a group with people of varied abilities, the operating company must ensure that there is a leader and follower every day.

9. Emergencies and Rescues

1. To deal with an evacuation required due to natural disasters etc., assess emergency evacuation procedures for the various places the tour will go to.
2. In an emergency, the touring group takes and follows instructions from the tour leader. This information needs to be communicated to the group at the start of every tour.
3. The Tour Leader must assess the situation and administer first aid as appropriate and call for backup as soon as possible.
4. To deal with cases of medical emergencies, assess proximity to hospitals, time is taken to reach there and mode of transport.
5. If there is a medical emergency and the tour leader is occupied with the emergency, the company must set a practice of how to manage the rest of the group.

10. Safety Briefing

Leaders are required to give a brief demonstration of the bike (brakes, gears, and any possible adjustments). It is recommended this happens before clients are given their bikes to ensure that they all focus on the explanation. The briefing to the clients must include:

1. Keeping identification with them always.
2. Taking ownership for assessing if they feel unwell or not up to the trip at any point and alerting the tour leader.
3. Riding safely, riding as per traffic rules.
4. Keeping their helmet on at all times, while on the saddle.
5. Using lights when conditions require it.
6. Cleaning bicycles and keeping them ready for the next day of travel.
7. Following instructions of the tour leader at all times, especially emergencies briefings during the trip.

Evening Briefings: In the evening before each ride, the leader must explain the next day's ride to the whole group. Points covered will include:

1. Using a map to show the overview of the route for the day.
2. Any included transfers are needed as part of the travel on that day.
3. Expected distance of the day's ride.
4. Expected terrain (road surface, ascent, and descent).
5. Planned stops: notable rest stops, lunch, and any visits.
6. Where the ride will finish and the accommodation, they will be using that night.

Next Section' Route Descriptions: At rest stops and re-grouping points during the ride leaders are expected to give short 'next section' briefing to let clients know what is coming up:

1. The distance and approximate duration of the next section.
2. Any known hazards (road surface, heavy traffic, steep descents, difficult route finding, etc.) and how to avoid them.
3. Any directions and junctions the group should look out for.
4. Points of interest to look out for.
5. The next planned stopping or re-grouping point.

11. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant of recognition must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The owner must possess the 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. Minimum one personnel qualified for the job (specified above).
3. First aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
4. Well-maintained bicycles, (if being offered), basic safety equipment, and tools.

5. Knowledge of the region – history, geography, and culture; permits needed for the region, inherent risks (natural, political, social, etc.).
6. The agency must be registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.

Tour Leaders with experience of:

1. Riding bicycles on the road for multiple days and riding the distance covered by the tour.
2. Good communication skills.
3. Ability to converse with government authorities and get relevant permissions.
4. Ability to plan and schedule all events in advance.
5. Ability to deal with and iron out issues on the trip.
6. Administering first aid and helping clients with medical insurance should the situation arise.

The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace policy' and conform to high sustainability standards.

12. Section for Mountain Biking

Guidelines for mountain biking tours are similar to biking. There are some additional MTB-specific guidelines a tour operator must ensure:

Trail Rules for Mountain Biking

1. Ride open trails only:
 - I. Do not use prohibited trails. In national parks only designated trails are permitted.
 - II. Take necessary permission for restricted trails. Reserve forests may issue entry tickets with fees.
 - III. Respect land rules for open trails.
2. Leave no trace:
 - I. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage than dry ones.
 - II. When the trail is soft, consider other riding options. Do not create new trails or cut switchbacks.
 - III. Do not ride around standing water, it widens the trail.
 - IV. Pack out as much as you pack in. Also, consider picking up any litter on the trail.
3. Control your bicycle:
 - I. Lack of attention even for a moment can lead to serious problems for the rider and others.
4. Follow the suggested speed limit.
5. Trail etiquette:
 - I. Make all efforts to alert other trail users. A friendly greeting or ringing the bell will do.
 - II. All downhill users must yield to uphill users.
 - III. All mountain bikers must yield to trekkers and animals on trails.
 - IV. Always anticipate other trail users around corners.
6. It is important to watch out for animals on the trail.
7. Plan ahead for unusual conditions:

- I. Know your equipment, ability, terrain, riding conditions, weather, & available resources on the route.
- II. Always stay in touch with your group.
- III. Carry clothes for change in weather conditions.
- IV. Strive to be self-sufficient.
- V. Follow all safety rules.

Skiing/ Snowboarding

Guidelines and Regulations

Department of Tourism

Union Territory of Ladakh



Guidelines and Regulations for Skiing/ Snowboarding

1. Introduction

Ladakh, often referred to as the 'Land of High Passes,' is a growing paradise for skiing enthusiasts. Nestled in the Trans-Himalayan region of India, this destination offers an untapped and raw skiing experience, which stands apart from other crowded ski locations around the world. The region's pristine snow, high-altitude terrain, and breathtaking landscapes create a perfect environment for skiers looking for both adventure and tranquility.

With 73% of the Himalayan range, India offers huge opportunities for skiing. The scope and potential for this adventure sport in India are immense. Skiing is not only an adventure sport but also part of the Winter Olympics and can generate employment through tourism. Besides the regular ski and snowboarding activities, heli-skiing in India offers some of the best powder conditions in the world, at high altitudes. This is a major attraction for advanced skiers/ snowboarders from all over the world.

Ladakh's vast and varied terrain, from gentle slopes to steep descents, makes it ideal for both beginner and expert skiers. With altitudes ranging from 3,500 to 6,000 mt, Ladakh provides a unique skiing experience. The long winters, from November to March, ensure a thick snow cover on the slopes, while the dry and cold climate offers excellent powder snow conditions.

2. Challenges

Despite its potential, skiing in Ladakh faces challenges that need to be addressed. The infrastructure is still in its infancy compared to other skiing destinations, with limited ski lifts, resorts, and accessibility. Additionally, the high altitude and remoteness require careful planning for acclimatization and emergency preparedness. However, these challenges also contribute to the sense of adventure and exclusivity that Ladakh offers.

3. Qualified Instructors

Instructors must be qualified in advanced ski courses from Indian Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering (IISM), Gulmarg, and JIM&WS, Pahalgam. Army and ITBP have their training institutes and their instructors are at par with National or state ski instructors.

4. Safety on and Off-Piste

Ski instructors/ guides must be able to assess weather and mountain hazards (avalanches, snow conditions, and terrain) correctly, respond and behave appropriately and be able to take immediate action in the event of an accident. The candidate should be familiar with and able to implement local/ FIS rules. The instructor must brief clients about the local culture and a strict 'leave no trace policy' on the mountain.

5. Equipment

Equipment available for rent must be thoroughly inspected before use.

6. Ski Patrol and Evacuations

Gulmarg is the only ski area in India that has a formal Ski Patrol team that is well-trained and equipped. None of the other areas have a dedicated team to monitor slopes and skiers. This should be made into a minimum requirement for a ski area.

7. Guides and Training

1. The instructor should be proficient in Hindi/ local language and English as a medium of instruction.
2. The instructor should be able to grade up lessons in a step wise manner covering walking exercises, basic swings, parallel turns, etc.
3. All ski/ snowboarding guides must have valid first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
4. Must preserve local flora, fauna and environment.
5. Ski guides must have skiing certification from a national or international skiing or snowboarding Institute, approved by the Director of the local snow-sport school.
6. The instructor should be able to teach all guest categories and age groups, as a group or individual one-on-one lesson.
7. The instructor should be able to judge extreme weather conditions and other hazards like avalanches, snow conditions, and blizzards.

8. Group Sizes

The instructor/ student ratio should be small and manageable. The ideal group strength should not be more than 10 persons per instructor. The group must be formed based on the participant's age, learning ability, and prior proficiency. Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from participating in high-risk activities, whereas those aged 12 and above may engage in activities with moderate risk. Minors involved in adventure activities must be accompanied by an adult.

9. Tour Operator/ Agents

The tour operator on the ground must be registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh as an Adventure Tour Operator.

10. Equipment Use

The correct use and proper maintenance of equipment are essential for conducting safe skiing and snowboarding activities. Whenever equipment is hired the tour operator must ensure that:

1. Ski equipment is fully serviceable with all components and is routinely checked every time it is used.
2. Snow sport helmets are in good condition and certified by a recognized safety standards organization.
3. Ski boots and bindings are compatible with each other.
4. Ski helmets must be of the correct fitting and size.

5. Only fully qualified technicians to undertake the fitting of equipment.
6. The tension on bindings must be fitted with due consideration to the age, weight, height, and ability of the participant and the manufacturer's instructions.
7. The ski binding must be put at the correct tension level looking at the proficiency of the skier and their weight.
8. Boots must be dry and in full working order with no significant damage that could reduce performance. All fastenings must be fully functional.
9. Skis and boots should be numbered and easily identifiable.
10. The tour operator must regularly check that these conditions are being met and should be able to provide evidence of such checks upon request.

11. Ski Lifts

1. The tour operator should have tested and used the lift system, particularly those parts dedicated to beginners.
2. The whole ski area and line of lifts must be under the watch of the operator who should be able to take immediate action in case of an accident.
3. Resorts must be assessed by the tour operator as suitable for the age group and activity.
4. Both lift system and runs, particularly nursery slopes, should be able to absorb the number of tourists in a group without causing dangerous overcrowding.
5. Lifts should be suitable for the age and experience of the group being handled.

12. Inspections and Maintenance Procedures

Whenever skiing equipment is owned by the operator, independent inspections and maintenance are to be carried out before the commencement of the season. This requires sound knowledge of equipment and therefore must be carried out by a qualified technician. As a minimum, the inspector must be a qualified instructor. Basic inspections must be carried out after every use by the guide/ escort and records maintained. The edges and bindings must be in good working condition.

13. SOPs and Operating Instructions

The SOPs required at each individual ski resort shall differ. While ensuring the minimum requirements and standards that apply to all skiing and snowboarding activities, ski operators must maintain a SOP which is known and understood by all participants. The instructor, as well as the tourists participating in these activities must get physical fitness certificate from a physician. The SOP should cover the following:

1. DOs and DON'Ts for the ski resort/ area.
2. Procedure for use of ski lift, timing, ticketing, and local customs.
3. Manufacturer's manual for the ski equipment in use.
4. Location and identification of slopes that require a minimum proficiency level.
5. Instruction procedures.
6. The outer limits of the skiing area and any known hazards.
7. Appropriate Personal clothing and protective gear.

8. Emergency and accident procedures, responsibilities, and reporting.
9. Fully equipped first aid kit available on the slope.

14. Risk Mitigation

1. The entire ski area must be mapped, and the ski runs graded in color codes for easy identification.
2. Extensive signage on and off the slopes to show run grading, off piste and groomed areas and area under ski patrol.
3. Must ensure that skiers on black and red runs are always accompanied by a qualified mountain ski guide.
4. Every mountain ski guide must carry recco or similar systems for avalanche rescue, avalanche poles, first aid, walkie-talkies, and cell phones.
5. A first aid kit must be available in the ski area itself. In addition, a detailed emergency action plan must be written that includes contact numbers of the available emergency services. Evacuation routes and emergency procedures must be included in the company's risk assessment.

15. Safety Briefing for Beginners

1. Wear appropriate clothing in layers, that will protect you from wind and cold.
2. Carry/ drink enough water, a minimum of 3-4 liters every day.
3. Always carry extra knee and ankle support with you, at all times.
4. Always unbuckle your ski boots while walking to reduce strain on your ankles. At the same time ensure that boots are re-buckled and fasten all loose clothing and gear before commencing your run.
5. Listen carefully to all instructions. Follow the defined line and do not hesitate to get clarifications from your instructor.
6. Maximum accidents happen while taking a ski lift, skiers should not be allowed to use ski lifts until they develop full confidence. to use their ski equipment properly. Read signage and listen to instructions carefully. Never disobey your instructors on the slopes.

16. Safety Briefing for Intermediate and Advanced Skiers

1. Be aware of prevailing weather conditions and predicted patterns. Wear and carry appropriate gear.
2. Always have a walkie-talkie or mobile phone (where applicable)/ wireless set in your pack in case you get separated.
3. Always ski with the group and follow instructions, avoid skiing alone.
4. Understand clearly the location of avalanche zones and if a ski patrol is active in the area.
5. Read avalanche warnings before you get onto the black or red runs.
6. You must have a recco system to trace you in case of an avalanche incident.
7. Plan to finish your last run of the day latest by 1600 hrs. so that there is enough daylight time to initiate a rescue if needed.
8. If you and your buddy/ instructor are going off-piste, then ensure that you leave information behind outlining the area you plan to ski /snowboard in.

9. Carry emergency rations and an extensive medical kit in case you need to spend a night in the open.

17. Medical Concerns

Clients must be physically fit before a ski holiday and highlight the following medical concerns before booking a ski package. Operators must get a medical opinion from a qualified doctor clearing the guest for skiing and snowboarding, in case any of the following concerns are highlighted the activity should not be undertaken:

1. Asthma (must carry inhalers)
2. High blood pressure
3. Heart disease or recent open-heart surgery
4. Diabetes
5. Knee-related problems
6. Severe spinal issues
7. Pregnancy
8. Severe allergies
9. Recent surgery/ hospitalization
10. Any other ailments that you may deem life-threatening in outdoor conditions

18. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant of recognition must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The owner must possess the 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. The operator must have a minimum of two instructors on full-time employment or long-term contract (minimum 12 months).
3. The instructors must have completed an advanced level skiing/ snowboarding course from an international/ national or state Level ski institute. Instructors must have valid first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
4. The operator must have/ or show proof of being able to hire a minimum of 20 serviceable sets of ski/ snowboard equipment including clothing and gear.
5. The operator must have adequate and up-to-date knowledge of the ski areas and runs available.
6. The operator must be able to identify the slope and area of operation based on the qualification and experience of the ski instructor/ tourists.
7. In case the operator is operating in off-piste sections that are not in the purview of the local ski patrol, they must be able to clearly define and display a rescue and evacuation policy.
8. For running trips off-piste, black and red sections, the instructors leading the group must be able to prove that they have skied/ boarded the runs at least once before taking any clients on the same section.

9. The operator must have a wireless/ walkie-talkie/ mobile phone set to use on the slopes.
10. The operator must carry a first aid kit and water on each trip.
11. The operator must maintain live records of all guests on the slopes on any given day and time.
These come in handy in case of any emergency/ rescue.
12. The agency must be registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
13. The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace policy' and conform to high sustainability standards.

Snow Scooters

Guidelines and Regulations

Department of Tourism
Union Territory of Ladakh



Guidelines and Regulations for Snow Scooters

1. Introduction

Snow scootering in Ladakh offers a thrilling way to explore the stunning winter landscape, but safety is paramount. While snow scooters can provide an exhilarating experience, improper handling can result in accidents and injuries. Unlike traditional vehicles, snow scooters require specific skills and knowledge for safe operation. To ensure the well-being of riders and the protection of the unique environment, a set of guidelines and regulations has been established. These standards aim to foster responsible riding practices and enhance the overall enjoyment of this adventurous activity.

2. Guides/ Instructors

All guides must possess relevant certifications and undergo specialized training programs that cover snow scooter operation, first aid, and environmental awareness. This training ensures that they are well-equipped to handle emergencies and educate riders on best practices. Additionally, licensed guides help navigate the challenging terrain, allowing participants to enjoy the adventure with peace of mind. Engaging certified guides is not just recommended but necessary for promoting safety and responsible tourism in this stunning region.

3. Customer Training

Customer training is a crucial component of snow scootering in Ladakh, ensuring that participants are well-prepared for their adventure. Before embarking on a ride, customers must receive thorough instruction from certified guides covering essential skills, including proper handling of the snow scooter, navigation techniques, and safety protocols. This training should also include information on weather conditions, terrain awareness, and emergency procedures. Guides should emphasize the importance of wearing protective gear and respecting the environment to minimize impact.

4. Equipment

- Snow Scooter:** Properly maintained and suitable for the terrain.
- Protective Helmet:** Full-face or modular helmets that meet safety standards.
- Goggles:** UV-protective and anti-fog goggles for clear vision in snowy conditions.
- Winter Clothing:** Insulated, waterproof outer layers to protect against cold and moisture.
- Gloves:** Warm, waterproof gloves or mittens for hand protection and grip.
- Boots:** Insulated, waterproof boots with good traction for stability and warmth.
- Base Layers:** Thermal underwear to wick moisture and retain heat.
- Safety Vest:** High-visibility vest for added safety and visibility in snow-covered areas.
- First Aid Kit:** Comprehensive kit for addressing minor injuries or emergencies.
- Communication Device:** Two-way radios or mobile phones for emergency contact with guides.

Ensuring all participants are equipped with the necessary gear is vital for a safe and enjoyable snow scootering experience.

5. Inspections and Maintenance Procedures

Regular inspections and maintenance procedures are essential for ensuring the safety and performance of snow scooters used in Ladakh. Before each ride, guides must conduct thorough pre-ride checks, including inspecting the brakes, throttle, and steering components for proper functioning. Additionally, checks for fuel levels, battery condition, and any signs of wear or damage are crucial. After each trip, scooters should be cleaned and stored properly to prevent corrosion and maintain optimal condition. A scheduled maintenance program should also be established, detailing routine servicing and repairs by qualified technicians. By adhering to these inspection and maintenance protocols, operators can enhance safety, extend the lifespan of the equipment, and ensure a reliable experience for all riders.

6. SOPs and Operating Instructions

The following rules should apply to all participants and guides during Snow Scootering:

- 1. Pre-Ride Briefing:** Conduct a thorough briefing for all participants covering safety protocols, operating instructions, and environmental awareness.
- 2. Equipment Check:** Perform a pre-ride inspection of the snow scooter to ensure all components are functioning correctly.
- 3. Protective Gear:** Ensure all riders wear required protective gear, including helmets, goggles, gloves, and appropriate clothing.
- 4. Speed Limits:** Adhere to designated speed limits to maintain control and ensure safety on varied terrain.
- 5. Group Riding:** Maintain a safe distance between riders to avoid collisions and allow for maneuverability.
- 6. Terrain Awareness:** Be mindful of the terrain conditions, including slopes, obstacles, and weather changes; adjust riding behavior accordingly.
- 7. Emergency Procedures:** Familiarize all participants with emergency protocols, including communication methods and first aid procedures.
- 8. Respect Wildlife:** Maintain a safe distance from wildlife and avoid disturbing their natural habitat.
- 9. Environmental Responsibility:** Stay on marked trails to minimize environmental impact and preserve the landscape.
- 10. Post-Ride Protocol:** After the ride, ensure all equipment is cleaned, inspected, and stored properly, and debrief participants to gather feedback.

7. Special Arrangements for Children

1. Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from participating in high-risk activities, whereas those aged 12 and above may engage in activities with moderate risk. Minors involved in adventure activities must be accompanied by an adult.
2. Ensure that snow scooters used by younger riders are appropriately sized and designed for their skill level to enhance safety.
3. All children must wear full protective gear, including helmets, gloves, and appropriate clothing, to minimize the risk of injury.

4. Guides should provide additional training for young riders, focusing on safe operation and basic riding skills.
5. Children should be allowed to ride in designated, controlled areas that are safe for their skill level, away from more advanced trails.
6. Ensure that children are briefed on emergency procedures and how to signal for assistance if needed.

8. Documentation

The following is the basic minimum documentation required:

1. Snow Scooter Purchase Documentation including warranty and service/maintenance history for each snow scooter.
2. A copy of the operating manual for each snow scooter, outlining safety procedures and operating instructions.
3. Documentation of training and assessment for all guides and instructors involved in snow scootering.
4. Valid first aid and CPR certification for all guides to ensure preparedness for emergencies.
5. Signed consent forms for all minors participating in snow scootering activities.
6. Proof of insurance coverage for both the operators and the snow scooters used during tours.
7. Documentation proving compliance with local environmental regulations and guidelines.
8. Signed liability waivers from all participants acknowledging the risks involved in snow scootering.
9. A list of emergency contacts for all participants, to be maintained by the tour operator.
10. Logs documenting routine inspections and maintenance performed on each snow scooter.

9. Risk Mitigation

Risk mitigation for snow scootering in Ladakh shall involve conducting thorough assessments of trails before allowing participants to use them. A detailed risk assessment should identify potential hazards, such as unstable terrain, weather conditions, and wildlife encounters. An emergency action plan must be established and communicated to all participants and staff, ensuring everyone is prepared for any unforeseen incidents. Regular training sessions for guides and instructors are essential to reinforce safety protocols and response strategies.

10. Emergencies and Rescues

For snow scootering in Ladakh, a comprehensive emergency and rescue plan is essential to ensure participant safety. A well-stocked first aid kit must be readily available at all locations, and the routes should be easily accessible for emergency services. Detailed emergency procedures should be documented, including contact numbers for local emergency services and specific protocols for various scenarios. Additionally, evacuation routes and procedures must be clearly outlined in the company's risk assessment, ensuring that guides and participants are familiar with them. Regular drills and training should be conducted to prepare staff for swift and effective responses in case of emergencies.

11. Safety Briefing

Conducting a thorough safety briefing ensures that all participants are informed and prepared, enhancing their safety and enjoyment during the snow scootering experience.

- Clearly outline the rules of the trail and enforce speed limits to ensure safety.
- Emphasize the importance of wearing helmets, goggles, gloves, and appropriate clothing always.
- Explain the operation of the snow scooter controls and conduct a thorough pre-ride inspection.
- Inform participants about their responsibilities, including understanding risks and maintaining awareness of their surroundings.
- Discuss group riding protocols, including maintaining safe distances, proper lane positioning, use of signals, and parking.
- Provide guidance on navigating difficult surfaces, such as icy patches or deep snow, and adjusting riding techniques accordingly.
- Ensure participants understand and sign an indemnity bond acknowledging the inherent risks involved.
- Reinforce the importance of not consuming alcohol or drugs before or during the ride.
- Remind participants to stay hydrated and schedule regular rest stops to prevent fatigue.
- Review the emergency action plan, including how to signal for help and the location of first aid kits.

12. Medical Concerns

These are of two types: personal and accident-related during the ride.

1. For personal medical conditions, clients should be advised to carry medication and inform the ride leader.
2. For accident-related concerns, the ride leader should have a plan in addition to a first aid kit.

13. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant of recognition must fulfill the following criteria:

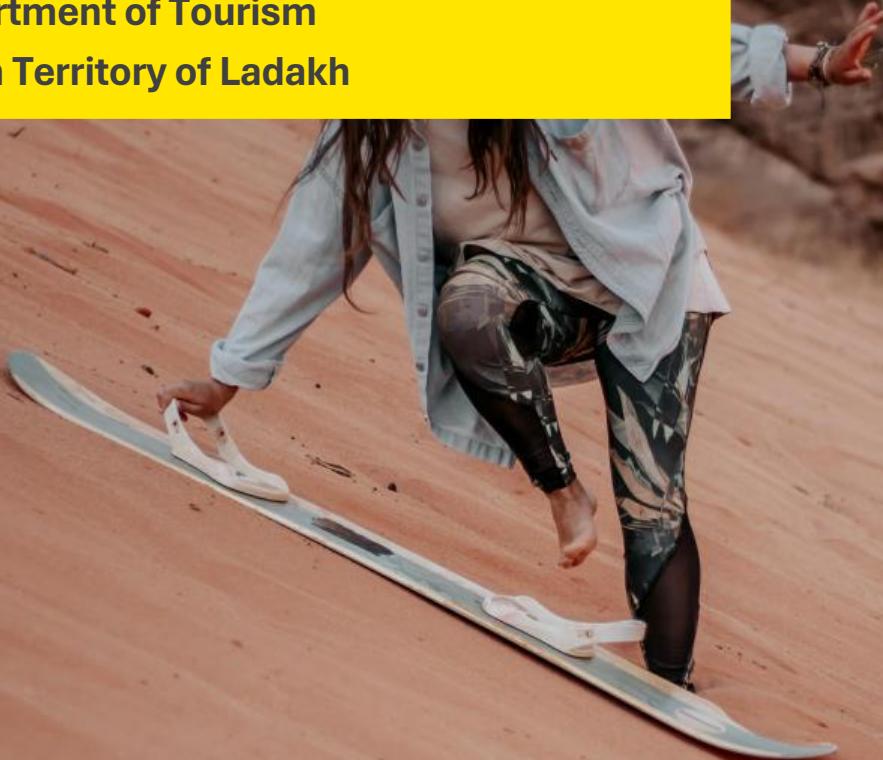
1. The owner must possess a valid 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. The agency must own snow scooters and all necessary accessories and safety gear, ensuring that the equipment is well-maintained, serviced, and in optimal working order with the required documentation.
3. The agency must employ at least two full-time trained snow scooter guides who are knowledgeable in safe operation, group dynamics, communication skills, and basic repairs.
4. They must hold valid first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
5. The agency must have established SOPs for conducting snow scootering trips, including an emergency action plan for all excursions.

6. A comprehensive risk assessment must be conducted prior to any snow scootering activity to identify and mitigate potential hazards.
7. Guides must maintain a list of hospitals and emergency services in the vicinity of the tour routes for quick access in case of emergencies.
8. A detailed SOP for inspecting snow scooters, safety gear, and documentation must be implemented before each trip.
9. The agency must be registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
10. The agency must adhere to a strict 'leave no trace' policy and comply with high sustainability standards to protect the environment.

Sandboarding

Guidelines and Regulations

Department of Tourism
Union Territory of Ladakh



Guidelines and Regulations for Sandboarding

1. Introduction

Ladakh, with its expansive sandy landscapes, is poised to become a haven for sandboarding enthusiasts. Unlike traditional snowboarding, sandboarding offers a distinctive experience on sand dunes. The dry desert climate, coupled with scenic beauty, provides both seasoned and beginner boarders with a thrilling adventure away from the usual crowded ski resorts. With minimal infrastructure, Ladakh has the potential to develop sandboarding tourism, offering employment opportunities and unique adventures.

2. Challenges

While Ladakh holds potential for sandboarding, it faces challenges. Infrastructure is limited, with very few dedicated sandboarding resorts or dunes prepared for the sport. Accessibility to suitable sand dunes may require extensive planning. Weather conditions, particularly extreme heat and wind, pose significant risks. Moreover, the remoteness of locations can complicate emergency evacuations and first aid responses.

3. Guides/ Instructors

Instructors should have completed advanced courses in sandboarding from recognized adventure sports institutes or have substantial experience in desert sports. In Ladakh, collaboration with adventure sports institutes like JIM&WS (Pahalgam) may help develop training programs for instructors in sandboarding. Instructors with cross-training in snowboarding or skiing can transition their skills, with additional desert-specific training.

4. Safety on and off-Dune

Instructors must be able to assess the desert's weather conditions (windstorms, sand shifts) and potential hazards like dune collapse or dehydration. Clear instructions should be given about dune formations, sand quality, and the risks of off-dune adventures. Instructors must strictly follow and teach the "leave no trace" principle to preserve the fragile desert ecosystem.

5. Customer Training

- Instructors must be proficient in both English, Hindi and local languages.
- Lessons should cover basic sandboarding techniques, from balance to carving.
- Guides must hold first-aid/CPR certifications, with a focus on desert-specific risks (heat exhaustion, dehydration).
- Must preserve local flora, fauna and environment.
- Guides must have certifications from recognized national or international desert sports institutes.
- They should be equipped to handle both individual and group lessons for all age groups.
- Guides should be trained to recognize and mitigate desert hazards like shifting dunes and windstorms.

6. Equipment

Sandboarding equipment, such as sandboards and protective gear (helmets, knee pads), must be routinely inspected before use. Sandboards should have smooth bases to reduce friction. Helmets and pads, designed for desert heat, should be well-ventilated and comfortable for long periods of wear.

The proper use and maintenance of sandboarding equipment are essential. Operators must ensure:

1. Sandboards should be fully checked for wear and tear after each use, ensuring smooth performance and safety on the dunes.
2. Helmets certified for action sports must be in good condition, providing optimal head protection during falls on the sand.
3. Bindings must fit securely and comfortably, ensuring compatibility with the rider's footwear for a safe ride.
4. Helmets should fit properly, offering snug coverage to protect riders during potential tumbles.
5. Only trained staff should handle the fitting of sandboarding equipment to ensure everything works as intended.
6. Bindings should be adjusted based on the rider's weight, age, and skill, following the manufacturer's recommendations.
7. Binding tension must suit the rider's proficiency, providing control without restricting movement.
8. Footwear must be damage-free, dry, and secure, allowing for a comfortable and safe sandboarding experience.
9. Boards and gear should be numbered and easily tracked for proper inventory and emergency use.
10. Operators must regularly inspect equipment and maintain records to ensure safety and customer confidence.
11. Wax the sandboard with specialized wax before every ride for smooth gliding across the dunes.
12. Protective pads like knee and elbow guards should be used to prevent injury, especially for beginners.
13. Sun protection is essential - advise riders to wear sunscreen, sunglasses, and ventilated helmets to stay safe under the desert sun.

7. Sand Patrol and Evacuations

Currently, there are no sandboarding patrols in India. It's essential to establish patrols equipped to handle desert emergencies, including dehydration, heatstroke, and injuries from falls. An emergency evacuation team specialized in desert terrain is crucial for any major sandboarding site.

8. Group Sizes

Like skiing, sandboarding groups should remain small, ideally not exceeding 8-10 participants per instructor. This ensures safety and personal attention, especially on challenging dunes where novice sandboarders may struggle with balance and coordination.

9. Tour Operators

Operators organizing sandboarding trips should be registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh. Given the specific nature of desert adventures, they must demonstrate expertise in managing desert conditions, safety, and environmental sustainability.

10. Dune Accessibility

- Operators should ensure dunes chosen for sandboarding are safe and suitable for the group's skill level.
- The dunes should be free from major hazards like deep sand pits or sharp, unstable ridges, as well as areas of stony or gravelly terrain that are unsuitable for sandboarding.
- Dune areas should not be overcrowded, as this increases the risk of accidents.

11. Inspections and Maintenance Procedures

Sandboarding equipment should undergo regular inspections, especially after extended use in harsh desert conditions. Sand can wear down boards, bindings, and other gear faster than snow, requiring more frequent checks.

12. SOPs and Operating Instructions

The SOPs required at each individual sandboarding site will differ. While ensuring the minimum requirements and standards that apply to all sandboarding activities, operators must maintain an SOP which is known and understood by all participants. Both instructors and tourists participating in sandboarding must provide a physical fitness certificate from a physician. The SOP should cover the following:

1. Clear safety and environmental guidelines for behavior on the dunes.
2. Proper use of sandboarding equipment, access timing, and respect for local customs.
3. Manufacturer's instructions for sandboard handling and maintenance.
4. Map highlighting slopes for beginner, intermediate, and advanced riders.
5. Step-by-step instruction process tailored to participant skill levels.
6. Identifying boundaries and hazards within the sandboarding area.
7. Recommended protective full-sleeve clothing and gear for heat and fall protection.
8. Emergency protocols outlining responsibilities and accident reporting.
9. A fully equipped first aid kit readily available on the dunes.
10. Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from participating in high-risk activities, whereas those aged 12 and above may engage in activities with moderate risk. Minors involved in adventure activities must be accompanied by an adult.

13. Risk Mitigation

Desert dunes should be mapped, with clear signage about the difficulty of each section. Operators should guide advanced sandboarders through hazardous areas (e.g., steep or unstable dunes) and ensure that safety measures (like radio communication and first-aid kits) are always in place.

14. Safety Briefing for Beginners

- Wear lightweight, breathable clothing and sun protection.
- Carry a minimum of 2-3 liters of water and hydrate regularly.
- Ensure sandboards are properly waxed to reduce friction on sand.
- Listen closely to instructions, especially on managing balance and sand-specific techniques.

15. Safety Briefing for Intermediate and Advanced Boarders

- Be aware of desert weather patterns, especially wind conditions that can change rapidly.
- Always board with a group.
- Avoid isolated dune sections without a guide, especially at high wind risk times.
- Carry emergency supplies, including extra water and a small first-aid kit.

16. Emergencies and Rescues

The staff should be fully prepared to deal with emergencies and carry out rescue as per the SOP without looking for orders and in a minimum time frame. The following will help in mitigating risk:

1. Awareness of risks
2. Training in rescues
3. First aid/ CPR & other medical training of the staff
4. An Emergency Action Plan should be in position and training for the same provided periodically to the staff
5. Doctor on call
6. Rescue evacuation to be worked out
7. Tie up with local hospital
8. Procedure for reporting incidents
9. Funds earmarked and available for medical cover
10. Regular briefing of the staff

17. Medical Concerns

Participants with conditions like asthma, dehydration risks, or heat sensitivity should avoid strenuous desert activities. Operators should require medical clearance for participants, especially those with serious health concerns like:

1. High Blood Pressure
2. Heart Disease or recent open-heart surgery
3. Diabetes
4. Knee-related problems
5. Severe Spinal Issues
6. Pregnancy
7. Severe Allergies

8. Recent Surgery/ hospitalization
9. Any other ailments that you may deem life-threatening in outdoor conditions

18. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

For any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking recognition for sandboarding operations, the following criteria must be fulfilled:

1. The owner must possess a 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. The operator must employ a minimum of two full-time or long-term contract instructors (minimum 12 months).
3. Instructors must have completed an advanced sandboarding or relevant adventure sports course from a recognized national/international institute and possess valid first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross or a similar body recognized by the Government of India or UT Administration.
4. The operator must own or show proof of being able to hire at least 20 sets of serviceable sandboarding equipment, including proper gear and clothing.
5. The operator must have up-to-date knowledge of the dunes and areas suitable for sandboarding.
6. The operator must be able to identify the appropriate sand dunes and areas of operation based on the qualifications and experience of the sandboarding instructors and tourists.
7. For operations in off-track dunes not under local patrol jurisdiction, the operator must clearly define and display a rescue and evacuation policy.
8. For guiding trips in more challenging or advanced dune areas, the instructors must have prior experience sandboarding those areas before taking clients.
9. The operator must have access to a wireless, walkie-talkie, or mobile phone set for use during sandboarding trips.
10. The operator must carry a first aid kit and water on each trip for emergency use.
11. Live records of all guests on the dunes must be always maintained to ensure efficient tracking during emergencies or rescues.
12. The agency must be registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
13. The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace' policy and adhere to high sustainability standards.

Trekking

Guidelines and Regulations

Department of Tourism
Union Territory of Ladakh



Guidelines and Regulations for Trekking

1. Introduction

With 73 percent of the Himalayan range in India, trekking has become the most popular adventure activity in the country. These basic minimum standards will apply specifically to commercial trekking expeditions across the country and at altitudes above 3,500 meters.

2. Guides/ Instructors

1. Those who are leading trekking activities must be skilled and qualified to lead trekking groups. Trek leaders should have a certificate issued by an MOT recognized adventure tour operators stating that the individual "has experience of 3 years in assisting trekking expeditions at altitudes of 3,500 mt. or minimum 3 climbs above 5,400 mt. (for guiding in the Himalayas minimum 3 climbs above 5,500 mt.) reflected in a logbook duly authenticated or validated by the operator and the clients and is independently capable of guiding trekking groups and carrying out rescue operations" OR, completed the Basic Mountaineering Course from any of the National Mountaineering Institutes and carry a certificate duly authenticated by an Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) recognized body OR IMF accredited tour operator.
2. Maintain a logbook containing authenticated records of trekking experience.
3. Must have a valid certification of a minimum 16-hour (2-day) first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross or an equivalent body, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration. The maximum group size should be fixed depending on the nature of the trek. The treks can be divided into different categories like low altitude treks/ glacier treks/ high altitude treks/ trekking expeditions, etc.

3. Equipment Care and Maintenance

1. The correct use and proper maintenance of trekking equipment are essential for conducting trekking activities and should never be taken lightly.
2. Trekking equipment such as tents, sleeping bags, etc. should be appropriate for the terrain in which it is being used.
3. All equipment is subject to wear and tear and must be checked before every use. Operators and leaders must have sound knowledge of this and have systems in place to control and manage their equipment. Equipment must be stored properly and inspected periodically. Unserviceable equipment should be discarded immediately. Operators and leaders must have sound knowledge of this and have systems in place to control and manage their equipment.

4. Inspections and Maintenance Procedures

Inspection and maintenance require a sound knowledge of the systems and equipment and must be carried out by qualified persons, as a minimum the inspector must be a qualified guide/ instructor. Basic inspections must be carried out before every use with detailed inspections carried out regularly in accordance with their operational procedures and risk assessments.

5. SOPs and Operating Instructions

1. All trekking tour operators must maintain and update a standard operating procedure for their operations and get the same vetted from the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh from time to time.
2. SOP for organizing the trekking expedition, such as assessing members' qualifications, medical condition, and experience, procedures for obtaining various permissions, travel to the trekking area, maintenance of base camp including hygiene, precautions for avoiding high altitude sickness, safety precautions, communication, weather reports, the procedure for emergencies, communication protocol, casualty evacuation, incident and accident reporting, and feedback mechanism must be well documented and part of staff training. The following must be included in the SOPs:
 - The guiding and porter staff on the mountain and the material supply must be adequate for the party and the stated level of service offered.
 - Advance arrangements must be known for medical help. Advance arrangements must also be made for evacuation assistance in case of emergency. A detailed emergency action plan must be in position and communicated to all concerned before the commencement of the trek.
 - Advertising must give a true picture of all the difficulties and dangers involved and avoid promising the impossible. For commercial trekking expeditions, information about the guiding team and their experience should be sent to the clients beforehand.
 - Do not litter. Encourage trekkers to collect waste from the trail, segregate it and dispose of it safely in the cities. The trash generated and collected must not be left behind in the mountains.
 - Use composting dry toilets on the trek. They save water and benefit the environment. Do not create many small pits. Before leaving the campsite, make sure all pits are closed and covered with mud higher than the ground level. As waste decomposes, the pit's volume reduces, and even if covered, it sinks. Considering this, the pits need to be packed well with soil.
 - Use water judiciously. Washing areas and toilets must be at least 100 mt. from the water source. The campsite must be at least 50 mt. away from the water source.
 - Educate trekkers on the best sustainable practices, such as composting, segregating non-degradable waste at campsites, and having conversations about how to bring sustainability and minimalism back into their lives.
 - The client must truthfully reveal his experience, supported by documentation/photographs, medical history, etc. to the organizer so that the organizer can make an informed choice about the potential client. For high-altitude treks, a doctor's fitness certificate for clients is recommended.
 - Information supplied in advance will include a clear statement of the guiding, portage, and equipment which will be supplied by the organizer, together with a detailed gear/clothing list for the clients.

3. Prohibition of Fixed Camps: To preserve the natural environment and ensure a minimal ecological footprint, no trekking operator shall be permitted to establish fixed camps/ permanent camps along any designated trekking routes or trails & camping points. This includes the installation of permanent or semi-permanent structures such as tents, shelters, or other accommodations that remain in place beyond the duration of a single trek.
4. Operators are required to adhere strictly to a 'leave no trace' policy, ensuring that all camping setups are temporary and that all equipment and waste are removed from the site at the end of each use. Compliance with this regulation shall be monitored regularly, and violations may result in penalties including fines, suspension of registration or any other appropriate action as deemed necessary by the Competent Authority.
5. Advisory on Solo Trekking: Tourists (foreigners & domestic) are advised not to go on treks alone and should go for such trips in groups, under the supervision of trained/ experienced guides only. Solo trekking in Ladakh is strongly discouraged due to safety concerns and potential difficulties with rescue operations. To ensure both safety and efficient rescue, trekkers shall explore the routes with a qualified local guide.
6. Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from participating in high-risk activities, whereas those aged 12 and above may engage in activities with moderate risk. Minors involved in adventure activities must be accompanied by an adult.

6. Documentation

The tour operator must maintain, at the minimum the following documentation:

9. Details of all guides and instructors including copies of certifications, a record of trekking experience, and feedback from clients.
10. Copies of all permits and permissions of current trekking expeditions.
11. Copies of identification documents, insurance cover, and details of next of kin for all participants, guides, and instructors.
12. Copy of SOP.
13. Current list of emergency contact numbers.
14. Emergency action plan for the trek.

7. Risk Mitigation

To mitigate the risk of high-altitude trekking, the following is advised:

1. To get participants medically examined before starting on the journey. A visit to a dentist is also recommended before multi-day treks.
2. Unless guided by a highly experienced guide, at least two members of the party have experience in high-altitude trekking with valid first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
3. Ensure that environmental safeguards are implemented in their program so that the area visited by them suffers no damage and is left clean for subsequent expeditions.

4. The operator must ensure that a comprehensive risk assessment is done and properly documented before operating any trekking expedition.

8. Emergencies and Rescues

1. Adequate first aid medical equipment must be available with the party. For high-altitude treks, an oxygen cylinder and Gamow bag are recommended.
2. Evacuation routes must be identified and known to participants, guides and instructors.
3. A detailed and documented emergency action plan with emergency contact numbers must be available with the party along with the closest available emergency services which can be called upon as required.

9. Safety Briefing

1. Safety briefing should be given on daily basis by the lead guide/ trip leader.
2. Where significant risks have been identified, lead guides should explain these risks and advise clients of any action needed to safeguard themselves.
3. Local guides/ trip leader's primary responsibility is to ensure the safety of the clients, support staff, and themselves.
4. This requirement comes before all other responsibilities and the lead guides/ trip leaders should be assured that any decision made by them to ensure the safety of all will be supported by the company.
5. Safety briefing should also include information about weather forecast (if available), elevation profile, time taken on the trail, hazards, hydration, and trail hygiene.

10. Medical Concerns

1. Local guides/ trip leaders should be aware of any common health problems that may affect trekking expeditions and know how to tackle those problems. This may include environment-related conditions such as hypothermia, sunstroke, or altitude sickness.
2. The lead guide/ trip leaders should be aware of any pre-existing medical conditions/ allergies within the group and this information should be checked during the main briefing. The lead guide must speak to the client/s who declare such conditions to gain a clear understanding of the medical concern.
3. The lead guide/ trip leaders must be aware of the local/ nearest possible emergency services available and how to contact them.
4. Must carry first aid/ medical kit with emergency medicines as required and it is absolutely important that first aid kits are routinely checked for the expiration of medicines and serviceability and replaced as necessary.

11. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant of recognition must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The owner must possess the 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. The operator should have a minimum of two qualified staff including the owner of the firm. Either the Owner / Director or their Operations - Chief should be well qualified in the trekking activity with recognized national or international certification or a minimum of three years of practical experience.
3. The operators must have their own adventure equipment.
4. The field staff of the ATO must be qualified for the activity or must have a minimum of three years of practical experience.
5. The agency must be registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
6. Field staff of the company must be qualified in first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
7. The company must have a printed brochure or website clearly describing its:
 - present activities
 - Its area of operation
 - Its commitment to follow eco-tourism guidelines
8. The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace policy' and conform to high sustainability standards.

Ziplining

Guidelines and Regulations

Department of Tourism

Union Territory of Ladakh



Guidelines and Regulations for Ziplining

1. Introduction

All owners & operators of zip wire and high ropes courses should aspire to install and operate their courses to the following European Standard: EN 15567:2015; Sports and recreational facilities – Ropes courses:

- Part 1: Construction and safety requirements
- Part 2: Operation requirements

What follows is an abridged version of these courses.

1. High ropes and zip wire courses involve participants engaged in activities while attached to ropes or cables more than 4.0m above ground level. A zip wire is defined as an activity system or ropes course in which the participant glides under gravity in a sloping direction. Both high ropes and zip wire courses are distinct from playground equipment in that they have restricted access and require supervision.
2. Such activities involve risks that should be managed by the operators. This is achieved through careful supervision, training, instruction & information. Based on a risk assessment, operators should take reasonably practicable measures to ensure the safety of participants, including safety devices and protocols designed to limit the risk or consequences of falls or collisions. However, such risks cannot be eliminated.

2. Medical Concerns

High ropes and zip wire courses should only be undertaken by those who are physically and mentally able to comply with the safety requirements specified by the operator. Participants must get a medical opinion from a qualified doctor clearing them for participating in high ropes/ zip wires activity, in case any of the following concerns are highlighted:

1. Asthma (must carry inhalers)
2. High blood pressure
3. Heart disease or recent open-heart surgery
4. Diabetes
5. Knee-related problems
6. Spinal issues
7. Severe allergies
8. Recent surgery/ hospitalization
9. Any other ailments of a serious nature
10. Pregnancy (expecting mothers should not participate in the activity)

3. Guides

Any guides or instructors involved in high ropes and zip wire courses must have the right combination of training and experience to carry out the following tasks:

1. Provide participants with the information required to ensure that the equipment and elements are used correctly.
2. Check that participants use the right equipment.
3. Assess a participant's self-sufficiency on a high ropes or zip wire test course.
4. Ensure that the operator's safety instructions are complied with.
5. Carry out a mid-span rescue, safely bringing a participant back to the ground within 30 minutes; or alert an onsite rescuer if required.
6. Assist participants.
7. Provide participants with first aid, including stretcher evacuation, if required.

4. Training

As a basic minimum, all high ropes and zip wire courses should have guides trained to the following level:

1. All guides are to be trained in the first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
2. All guides are to be trained in basic high ropes and/ or zip wire operations – in-house training, to a standard approved by the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
3. Guide competence in all safety-critical roles validated via regular assessment, containing clearly defined pass and fail criteria, by a senior instructor.
4. Regular field monitoring to assess guide competence with participants while not under direct supervision.
5. At least one guide per course to be rescue trained and assessed as capable of conducting a mid-span rescue, safely bringing a participant back to the ground within 30 minutes.

The manager and/ or senior instructor to have:

1. A minimum of 1 year experience as a full-time guide on a high ropes or zip wire course.
2. An advanced first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
3. Adequate training and assessment to validate their competence in a senior role.

5. Equipment – The Installation

1. **Choice of Site:** The high ropes or zip wire course shall be located in an area of reasonable operating safety; it shall be possible to evacuate participants from any part of the course.
2. **Materials:** Materials shall be fit for purpose. Timber parts shall be designed in such a way that precipitation can drain off freely and water accumulation can be avoided. Metal parts shall be weatherproofed against atmospheric conditions.

3. **Wire Rope:** Only galvanized or stainless-steel wire ropes shall be used. Terminations around trees and poles shall have a closure angle of less than or equal to 60 degrees. Wire rope inspections and discard criteria shall conform to ISO 4309.
4. **Wire Rope Terminations and Grips:** All wire rope terminations shall conform to EN 13411 Parts 1-7. The number of wire grips shall depend on the nature and diameter of the wire rope and the types of wire ropes and grips used. It shall not be possible to undo critical components without a tool. Points of attachment on wire ropes may create local fatigue and shall be given special attention during inspections.
5. **Design and Manufacture:** High ropes or zip wire courses shall be designed with consideration for the size and body weight of the participants. The dynamic load (generated by a falling participant) shall not exceed 6kN. Installations using self-belay systems made out of steel wire rope shall be calculated using safety factor 3.0 in relation to the ultimate load.
6. **Support System:** The support system (artificial and/ or natural structure intended for installation of activity and safety systems) shall have the stability and resistance appropriate for the load calculated. In instances where the zip line course transmits loads to the existing structure (e.g. building), care shall be exercised to ensure that the existing structure can bear the loads created by the zip lines. When rocks are used as supporting structures the anchor pull-out strength must be at least four times the applied load.
7. **Activity System:** The activity system (e.g. landings, platforms, descending devices, zip wires) shall be designed to accommodate the imposed loads. The safety connection between the participant and the zip wire shall be made with the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Wire ropes shall have no exposed broken wire ends within the reach of the participants. If any part of the zip wire and landing area is not visible from the start point a departure regulation system shall be used. Appropriate training and equipment shall be provided if participants are required to brake actively during the descent; a passive braking system (e.g. gravity, buffer, bungee, net) shall always be in place.
8. **Safety System:** The safety system can be collective (e.g. railings, landing mats, belay anchor) or individual (e.g. safety harness & belay to fall arrest device). When participants' feet are more than 1.0m from the ground, a safety system shall be in place. Systems, in particular with movable trolleys, shall be designed in such a way as to reduce the entrapment of body parts or clothing.
9. **Inspection and Maintenance:** Before the site is inaugurated a competent body, approved by the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh, along with operators' association of Ladakh, shall certify that the site follows this standard. The following shall be carried out: a visual inspection, a functional inspection, a design validation, documentation including structural analysis, date, and location of inspection, the result of the inspection, and details of any defects detected. The inspection report shall be included in the operations manual of the course. After the inauguration, the equipment and its components should be inspected or maintained as follows:
 - Routine Visual Check: before each opening
 - Operational Inspection: every 1-3 months
 - Periodical Inspection: at least once per year by an inspection body, including visual inspection, functional inspection, determination of replacement state of worn parts,

inspection including manufacturer's instructions for maintenance. The inspection, certification & periodic maintenance shall be the sole responsibility of the ATO

10. User Manual for Operators: The manufacturer or installer of a zip line course shall provide a manual containing at least the following information:

- Technical description of the facility and its components
- Use of the course & marking
- Manufacturer's declaration, containing: the basis of static load calculation, normative references, and exclusions of liability, if any.

11. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): All participants are required to wear PPE while engaged in high ropes and zip wire course activities. As a minimum, the PPE should include:

- Rock climbing sit harness
- Additional chest harness or full body harness where appropriate, e.g. when a sit harness is ill-fitting around the waist
- Two points of attachment (e.g. lanyards & screw gate karabiners) to the safety system
- All PPE to conform to UIAA or EN / CE standards
- The fitting of PPE shall be checked by a guide before use. The PPE shall be inspected and controlled as follows:
 - I. Routine check – before participants use equipment
 - II. Complete check by an inspector – at least every 12 months; after an exceptional event; after the equipment has been withdrawn from use following a routine check
 - III. A personal protective equipment inspection register is required for each set of devices.
- All exceptional events affecting the equipment, the checks performed as a result of such events, and the minimum annual checks shall be entered on the register.
- Competence of the inspectors. An inspector of PPE is deemed to be competent if:
 - I. They hold an advanced national climbing certificate (e.g. mountaineering, climbing); or
 - II. They have completed a special course run by an organization that can certify that the person in question has specific skills in the equipment mentioned; or
 - III. They can prove that they have at least 24 months of experience as a trainee inspector, supervised by a competent inspector.

6. SOPs and Operating Instructions

Safety brief; instructions and practical assessment of participants. Before commencing an activity, all participants shall be informed of the safety instructions, which should include:

1. Explanation of the high ropes/zip wire course and inherent risks.
2. Explanation of the equipment (PPE) to use when required.
3. Demonstration by the instructor or manipulation of the equipment by the participant.
4. Explanation of the safety instructions, especially the need to be always connected to the safety system by at least one connector.

5. Explanation of any marking placed at the beginning of every course or action system.
6. Identification of instructors and how and when to communicate with them (at any time any participant shall be within range of sight of either an instructor or an adult participant).
7. Action to be taken in event of an accident.
8. All of this information shall be documented.
9. All instructors and guides should be able to give a thorough safety briefing that covers all safety aspects and detailed paddling and rescue instructions in detail. This briefing must be clear and must have the ability to be given in English and/ or Hindi, with the ability to command guests for the activity.
10. The principles of the various technique participants will have to perform during the course shall be explained. All participants shall demonstrate their understanding of these techniques by means of a practical assessment by a trained guide on a practice zip or high ropes area. All participants shall pass an assessment of competence on the test course, to a defined pass and fail criteria, before progressing.
11. **Supervision – General Points:** During a rescue operation, a rescuer shall be dispatched without any adverse effect on-site supervision. Communication between participants and the guide shall be ensured. At any time, any participant shall be within range of sight of either a guide or another adult participant.
12. **Course Supervision:** Supervision by trained guides is divided into 3 levels:
 - Level 1: a situation whereby a guide can physically intervene.
 - Level 2: a situation whereby a guide can clearly see the participant and intervene verbally.
 - Level 3: a situation whereby a guide is in a position to communicate verbally with and provide adequate assistance to participants.
13. **Continuous Belay System & Zip Wire Belay:** A minimum of one, and preferably two, trained guides shall ensure participants are correctly attached to the safety system on high ropes or zip wire courses using a continuous belay system.
14. **Self-Belay & Assisted Belay:** In the event of participants being required to self-belay, there shall be an adequate number of guides to ensure the following:
 - All participants are to demonstrate their understanding of the activity procedures and safety instructions in a practice area under Level 1 supervision & assessment.
 - The first five elements negotiated by a participant shall be under Level 2 supervision. During this period guides shall pay particular attention to the changeovers. After this period participants shall be under Level 3 supervision by guides.
 - For assisted belays, there shall be a minimum of one guide for 4 participants (at height). In such instances, the belayers shall be under the Level 1 supervision of the guide.
 - Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from participating in high-risk activities, whereas those aged 12 and above may engage in activities with moderate risk. Minors involved in adventure activities must be accompanied by an adult. Children between the ages of 10 and 14 shall be under Level 2 supervision by a guide throughout the activity.
15. **Inspection and Maintenance:** The equipment or its components should be inspected or maintained as follows:
 - Routine visual check, which shall be carried out before each opening.

- The operational inspection should be carried out every one to three months (e.g. cleanliness, equipment ground clearances, ground surface finishes, exposed foundations, sharp edges, missing parts, excessive wear of moving parts, and the structural integrity of the safety system).
- Periodical inspection, at least once a year. The following should be carried out: a visual inspection, a functional inspection, a determination of the replacement state of worn parts, and inspections including all manufacturer's/supplier's instructions for maintenance. Any safety-relevant defects observed shall be eliminated. Specific considerations on safety critical wire ropes shall be given to the potential effects of fatigue. For periodical inspections, an inspection report shall be drawn up, including the following:
 - I. Date and place of inspection
 - II. Results of the inspection indicating the defects observed
 - III. Assessment, whether there are any misgivings about further use of the facility
 - IV. Information on necessary re-inspection
 - V. Name, address, and signature of the examiner

7. Documentation

The following documentation is required to be kept onsite:

1. Administrative:
 - I. Name and address of owner and operator
 - II. Document indicating the annual inspections carried out by an inspecting body
 - III. List of site personnel and their job titles
 - IV. Evidence of public and other liability insurance
2. Operational:
 - I. Logbook containing the daily operation sheets (including faults observed during inspections at opening and closing, and relevant events concerning safety). These need to be kept for three years
 - II. Accident and incident report sheets
 - III. Personal protective equipment inspection registers and operation log
 - IV. Risk assessment and management plan – drawn up by the zip line course operator
 - V. Instructor and rescue training to be documented
 - VI. Manufacturer's product manual
 - VII. Rescue and emergency plan
 - VIII. Current inspection report
3. Information to be provided for participants and visitors:
 - I. Description of the activity and safety instructions
 - II. Limits and restrictions for use
 - III. Information relating to personal public liability insurance of the operator.

8. Risk Mitigation and Emergencies

1. **Risk Assessment:** Each operator of a high ropes/ zip wire course is required to conduct a basic risk assessment, at least once per year, according to the format approved by the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh. Documentary evidence of this risk assessment should be kept onsite. The risk assessment will give rise to the security and emergency plan.
2. **Security and Emergency Action Plan:** The security and emergency action plan shall be appropriate to the surface area of the high ropes/ zip wire course and the number of participants it can accommodate. It shall contain the following:
 - I. Names of the rescuers and the name and address of the operator
 - II. Means of communication
 - III. Emergency equipment
 - IV. Drawings indicating the emergency paths, accesses, and exits
 - V. Procedures for evacuation due to injury or extreme weather
 - VI. Documentation for training in emergencies and reporting accidents
 - VII. Every high ropes/ zip wire course to have a first aid kit and stretcher/ spinal board onsite.

9. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant of recognition must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The owner must possess the 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. The agency must be registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
3. All guides must be trained/ certified to the standards listed above.
4. Operational procedures as listed above, must be strictly adhered to and documented.
5. A third-party audit by a qualified/ certified engineer must be conducted before commencing operations.
6. Periodic site inspections and PPE inspections must be conducted as listed above.
7. A comprehensive risk management plan and emergency action Plan should be in position and the staff trained periodically on the same.
8. It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant for recognition must fulfill these desirable criteria:
 - I. The entity must own specialized equipment commensurate with the needs of undertaking and running such an operation.
 - II. The entity must have qualified personnel on its payroll. These personnel must carry the requisite experience in the activity and be certified in first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
 - III. The entity must operate with the required permits/ licenses.
 - IV. The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace policy' and conform to high sustainability standards.

Rock Climbing, Artificial Wall Climbing, Abseiling & Ice Climbing

Guidelines and Regulations

**Department of Tourism
Union Territory of Ladakh**



Guidelines and Regulations for Rock Climbing, Artificial Wall Climbing, Abseiling & Ice Climbing

1. Terms and Definitions

1. Single Pitch – An easily accessible climbing venue where both top and bottom of the climbing surface can be accessed safely by foot without the need for personal protective equipment and roped systems.
2. Fixed protection systems – “Bolts” or “anchors” specifically designed and fitted for the purpose of attaching roped systems to a structure/ natural climbing venue.
3. The safety chain includes the anchor; the rope; the carabiners and slings; the knots; the harness and the alert belayer.
4. Bottom roping where the belayer is situated at the bottom of the climb and the rope is directed through an anchor at the top of the climb and back down to the climber.
5. Top roping where the belayer is situated at the top of the climb and the rope is directed from the belay system directly to the climber.
6. Lead climbing where the climber places protection during the climb and has no roped protection above.
7. Leader placed protection is protection specifically designed for the use of lead climbing and rigging where no fixed protection is available.
8. Fall factor a method in which to scale the severity and force of a fall.
9. Ice Tools: Specialized equipment such as ice axes or ice hammers used by climbers to ascend frozen waterfalls or ice formations. These tools provide grip and stability when climbing vertical or steep ice surfaces.
 - Ice Axe: A versatile tool used for both climbing and self-arrest on icy or snowy slopes. It has a pick for cutting into ice and an adze for clearing ice or snow.
 - Ice Hammer: Similar to an ice axe but designed primarily for driving ice screws into ice surfaces. It is used to place protective equipment while climbing.
 - Ice Screw: A tubular metal screw used to create secure anchor points in ice. Ice screws are critical for protecting climbers during ice climbs, allowing for the attachment of ropes or carabiners to the ice surface.

2. Guides/ Instructors

Guides and instructors who are supervising climbing and abseiling activities should, as a minimum, hold valid certificates for the following:

1. A minimum 8 hour (1 day) first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
2. A mountaineering course, preferably ‘Advanced Method of Instructions’ from JIM&WS, Pahalgam or any other National Mountaineering Institutes and be certified by a MOI qualified instructor to have assisted climbing and abseiling activities for a minimum of 100 hours OR Indian

Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) recognized sports climbing instructors' course or should have sufficient experience certified by suitably qualified coaches/ instructors duly recognized by IMF.

3. Instructors for ice climbing must hold advanced certifications in ice climbing instruction, including rescue and safety protocols specific to frozen environments (such as Wilderness First Responder certification for high-altitude conditions).

3. Equipment

1. The correct use and proper maintenance of climbing equipment is essential for conducting safe climbing and abseiling activities and should never be taken lightly.
2. Although these standards do not cover the fitting or construction of fixed protection systems, these systems should be rated by the manufacturer and have a quantifiable safe working load. As a minimum standard for such systems, operators must adhere to a safety factor of 3 in accordance to the operator's weight limitations. In addition, fixed protection systems must be proven to withstand 10KN (1 ton) without displaying any visible deformation or damage. In order to fully understand appropriate fixed anchor/ protection systems an operator must also have sound knowledge of static/ dynamic load and fall factors.
3. Rated and quality assured personal protective equipment or PPE must be used. An internationally recognized safe working load for such equipment is 25KN (2.5 tons). In order to comply with this standard it is recommended that all PPE is CE (European Conformity) approved. Here is a list of the minimum PPE requirements for an average climbing and/ or abseiling session:

- **Harness:** The single most important piece of personal protective equipment which allows the climber to be safely attached to the roped system and is also a "link" of the safety chain. Harnesses however do not fit themselves and when fitted incorrectly introduce further risk due to providing a false sense of security. For this reason, all harnesses must be checked by a qualified leader to ensure they are fitted correctly prior to leaving the ground and being exposed to a potential fall.
- **Helmets:** Climbing helmets are designed to withstand impact from above by falling rock and equipment, NOT the head impacting on the ground from a falling climber. As such, it is the responsibility of the owner/ operator to deem if a climbing helmet is necessary in accordance with their risk assessments. The general rule however is that in natural rock venues use a helmet; in bottom rope artificial venues a helmet is optional; in top rope/ abseil artificial venues, use a helmet. If in doubt, use a helmet.
- **Rope:** There are many different types of rope. The operator and leader must have a sound knowledge of specifically designed climbing rope, including the different types and applications. In order for the operator or leader to fully understand the applications or different climbing ropes they must also fully understand fall factors. Climbing rope comes in different diameters and specifications but the basics are dynamic, semi static and static. The operator must consult the manufacturer's manual to ascertain its intended use. Rope not intended for climbing is made with different materials and has different specifications. Rope that isn't designed specifically for the use of climbing and abseiling activities must NEVER be used for this purpose. A safe working load of 25KN (2.5 tons) and CE approval is the internationally recognized standard for climbing rope.

- **Hardware (carabiners, belay devices etc.):** There is a wide range of climbing aids and devices and the operator and instructor must have a complete and sound knowledge of their applications including which devices are necessary to operate climbing and abseiling activities safely. These devices are also a “link” in the safety chain. As per all other climbing equipment items a safe working load of 25KN (2.5 tons) and CE approval is the internationally recognized standard for climbing hardware and devices.
- **Ice Tools:** All ice tools must be certified by the UIAA (International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation) or CE for mountaineering equipment, ensuring they meet international safety standards.

4. All equipment is subject to wear and tear and must be checked before every use. Incorrect storage, use and monitoring of rated and approved equipment is usually the cause of equipment failure. Operators and leaders must have sound knowledge of this and have systems in place in order to control and manage their equipment. Details of how to do this is included in the Indian Climbing Leader Award.

4. Inspection and Maintenance Procedures

Inspections and maintenance require sound knowledge of the systems and equipment themselves and therefore must be carried out by qualified persons as a minimum the inspector must be qualified to be a guide/ instructor. Basic inspections must be carried out before every use with complete and detailed inspections carried out on a regular basis in accordance with their operations procedures and risk assessments.

5. SOPs and Operating Instructions

1. For rock climbing and abseiling, the systems required at each individual venue vary. The following is the minimum requirement and standards that apply to all climbing and abseiling activities.
2. The safety chain:
 - **The Anchor:** Is permanent and been fitted with the intention to be used for this particular activity. Has been tested to withstand a minimum of 10 KN (1 ton). Does not show any signs of damage or deformity.
 - **The rope:** Is a climbing rope that has been made by an approved manufacture. It is the correct type of rope for this particular activity. It does not show any signs of damage or deformity i.e. excessive “fluffing”, cuts, rips or tears, thin bits, fat bits etc. Is correctly secured to the anchor.
 - **The carabiners and slings:** Equipment is for its intended use only. There are no signs of damage, deformity or wear and tear. Are correctly secured.
 - **The knots:** Are the correct knots. Have been double-checked before exposing anyone to a potential fall.
 - **The harness:** There are no signs of damage, deformity or wear and tear. Is correctly fitted.
 - **The alert belayer:** Has the belay device fitted correctly. The belayer knows how to use the device. The belayer alert, paying attention to the climber and performing the correct 5 point belaying technique (covered in the Indian Climbing Leader Award).

- **Ice Tools:** All ice axes and ice tools must be checked for structural integrity, sharpness, and appropriate sizing for the activity. They should be properly fitted with leashes if required.
- **Crampons:** Must be securely fitted to boots and regularly checked for sharpness and damage. Ensure compatibility with the participant's boots.
- **Ice Screws:** All ice screws must be inspected for any signs of wear, rust, or damage. They must be placed correctly in solid ice and tested for security.

3. During all following applications and systems, and in line with the exception of this minimum standard, neither the instructor nor participant should ever be subject to potential fall greater than a fall factor of 1.
4. Bottom rope system:
 - The weight of the climber and belayer should be calculated to judge if a ground anchor for the belayer is necessary.
 - The appropriate belay system for the venue/group should be utilized.
 - It is preferable that the belay device be locked off under load allowing the instructor to escape from the system – applicable to customer/ group belaying and ground anchor belay systems.
5. Top rope system:
 - The instructor must always be attached via an independent safety line that allows him/ her to escape from the system whilst the climbing rope is under load.
 - The instructor must be able to lock off the belay device under load.
6. Group abseil (releasable abseil) system:
 - The abseil rope, safety rope and instructor safety line must be attached to individual anchor points.
 - The abseil rope must be a redundant system that is releasable under load enabling it to be discarded if necessary.
 - The instructor must be able to lock off the safety rope whilst under load.
7. Anchor and Belay Systems for Ice:
 - **Ice Anchors:** Ensure that ice screws, v-threads, or other appropriate ice anchors are securely placed in solid, reliable ice. These anchors must be regularly tested during the climb to account for changing ice conditions due to temperature.
 - **Belay Systems:** Ice climbing often requires the use of more complex belay techniques, such as using a direct belay from a solid anchor point. A backup belay device or system should always be in place.
 - **Top Rope and Lead Climbing:** For ice climbing, top rope systems should be preferred for beginners and intermediate climbers. Lead climbing should only be attempted by experienced climbers under strict supervision and with appropriate lead protection in place.
8. Participants:
 - Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from participating in high-risk activities, whereas those aged 12 and above may engage in activities with moderate risk. Minors involved in adventure activities must be accompanied by an adult. While age is not a

critical factor, but a participant must be of suitable size in order to be fitted safely into their harness. Chest harnesses are to be used where necessary.

- Participants must be aware of the risks involved and in turn must listen and adhere to the instructions of their instructor.
- Specific health concerns must be considered before participating.
- Protective Gear for Ice Climbing: Helmets, insulated gloves, and additional protective clothing such as face protection from ice debris must be worn. Harnesses must be designed for cold conditions and be compatible with winter layers.
- Layering & Hydration: Participants must be advised to wear appropriate layering systems for protection against cold and to stay hydrated in the dry, high-altitude environment.
- Safety Briefing on Ice Hazards: Before climbing, participants should be briefed on potential hazards such as falling ice, temperature fluctuations, and how to handle ice climbing equipment safely.

9. The venue:

- All venues under the purview of this minimum standard must remain within the definition of single pitch.
- Artificial structures must be designed and certified to withstand the forces involved and include a safety factor of 3 on all safety critical components.
- Anchor points on both artificial and natural venues must be accessible without the need for lead climbing or leader placed protection. Failing this, they must be rigged, checked and accessed by suitably trained and experienced instructors.
- The icefall or frozen waterfall being climbed must be thoroughly inspected before the climb to ensure stability and suitability. This includes checking for hanging seracs, loose ice, and the risk of avalanche.
- Consideration must be given to the terrain surrounding the icefall, particularly for safe access and exit routes, potential rockfall areas, and the risk of avalanches.

10. Weather Considerations for Ice Climbing:

- The ice climbing environment can change rapidly with temperature fluctuations. Regular checks on ice stability and conditions are required throughout the day, with climbers and instructors ensuring no signs of ice weakening or potential for collapse.
- Ice climbing is particularly susceptible to weather conditions such as snowfall, warming temperatures, or storms. Instructors should monitor weather forecasts and be prepared to abort climbs if conditions become unsafe.
- Since ice climbing in Ladakh occurs at high altitudes, the risks associated with altitude sickness and cold-related injuries (hypothermia, frostbite) should be addressed. Ensure all participants are acclimatized to the altitude and have appropriate clothing and gear to withstand cold conditions.

6. Documentation

1. Associated equipment purchase documentation, including warranty, service & maintenance history documentation.
2. Documented installation/ structure checks.

3. Logbook of instructor training and qualifications.
4. Valid first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
5. Emergency action plan.

7. Risk Mitigation

1. A basic risk assessment of the venue is required before use.
2. Emergency/ evacuation procedures must be formulated in which all leaders are trained.
3. Fall Protection: Ice climbing carries a higher risk of dangerous falls due to the fragile nature of ice. A strict protocol should be followed to minimize fall distances (fall factor of 1 or less), including the correct placement of ice screws at regular intervals.
4. Buddy System: Participants should always climb in pairs or groups, with an emergency protocol in place if a climber is injured or stuck on the ice.

8. Emergencies and Rescues

If the above systems are adhered to, climbing and abseiling rescues are simple and safe, the details of which are covered in the Indian Climbing Leader Award. In addition:

1. A first aid kit must be available on site.
2. Evacuation routes must be easily accessible as per the definition of single pitch.
3. A detailed and documented evacuation/ emergency procedure must be written which includes the contact numbers of the closest available emergency services which can be called upon as required.
4. There must be an emergency rescue system in place that includes techniques for rescuing climbers who may fall or become injured on the ice. Instructors must be trained in crevasse rescue (if applicable) and in using pulleys and other rescue equipment.

9. Safety Briefing

1. All instructors and guides should be able to give a thorough safety briefing that covers all safety aspects and detailed climbing/ abseiling and rescue instructions in detail.
2. This briefing must be clear and instructors must have the ability to give the safety briefing in English, Hindi or local language, with ability to prepare guests for the activity.

10. Medical Concerns

1. All instructors and guides must have information on medical issues before the activity is conducted.
2. It is recommended that heart patients, those with spinal issues, recent surgery or any other medical issue of concern, expecting mothers and underage children do not undertake the activity. It is also recommended that epilepsy and asthmatic patients, avoid this activity. Asthma inhalers must be carried by guests for the activity.

11. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant of recognition must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The owner must possess the 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. The entity must own specialized equipment commensurate with needs of running such an operation (specified above).
3. The operator must have minimum two full-time qualified personnel on their payroll. These personnel must carry the requisite experience in the activity (specified above) and have valid first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
4. The operator must operate with the required permits / licenses and registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
5. The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace' policy and conform to high sustainability standards.

Motorcycle Tour Operators

Guidelines and Regulations

Department of Tourism

Union Territory of Ladakh



Guidelines and Regulations for Motorcycle Tour Operators

1. Introduction

1. Motorcycle touring is a lot of fun and is filled with a sense of freedom, as against a car, but can also be a fairly high-risk activity. Therefore, needs to follow a set of rules and practices to keep all involved safe especially in a commercially organized group riding scenario where all participants are a disjointed group. Adventure activities by their very nature involve some risks, these regulations are being introduced to ensure that tour operators who offer motorcycle adventure tours, have basic safety and operating standards in place.
2. These regulations will give both foreign and domestic tourists confidence that appropriate steps have been taken to keep them safe and mitigate the risks involved.

2. Applicability

These regulations will apply to operations and services of travel agencies and tour operators, who organize or sell, motorcycle tourism related services to public for business purposes.

3. Objective

To increase safety consciousness among tour operators as well as enabling tour operators to determine safety standards which apply to motorcycle tour operations and expeditions.

4. Adventure Guide/ Instructor – Basic Minimum Qualifications and Experience

1. Who is an Operator? Any person whether employer, a principal, or self-employed person who provides an adventure activity to a person directly or indirectly for a payment, the purpose of which can be educational/ recreational/ business and deliberately exposes the participant to a risk of a possible serious harm.
2. Basic Qualifications/ Requirements. A tour guide/ instructor should possess these basic minimum qualifications/ experience:
 - Driver's License: Operator should have held a full motorcycle license for a minimum of 5 years, and have adequate experience of riding in all types of terrains in India - Himalayas, Coastal, Deserts, National Parks, etc.
 - Should preferably have completed a basic motorcycle safety course from a recognized Institute.
 - Should have basic knowledge of the working and running repair of a motorcycle, that is being used in the expedition.
 - Should have valid first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
 - Have adequate computer skills and ability to handle /operate a GPS.
 - Have basic map reading skills and ability to use a compass.
 - Have customer handling and motorcycle group management skills.

- Possess adequate know how of traffic rules and general rules and regulations of area of operation.
- If the customer group does not speak Hindi or English, the operator must have a guide who speaks the language of customer rider.
- For an expedition that is more than 4 days or operates in remote areas or had a group size more than 7 riders, a backup logistic truck may be provided. This could carry additional baggage, mechanical spares, reserve fuels, etc.

5. Equipment Required

Based on the type of expedition and its duration, there is a comprehensive list of equipment that may be carried on a guided tour. Some basic essentials are listed below which, the operator must have and a recommended list for the client. The instructions to this effect must be conveyed to the customer, well in advance so that they come suitably prepared.

1. A suitable motorcycle according to the route planned. They could bring their own or may be rent it from the provider.
2. Suitable apparel according to the weather and safety gear to include certified safety helmet, high ankle boots, gloves, riding jacket, rain gear, etc.
3. Communication equipment radio/ mobile/ satellite phones (if applicable).
4. Marked maps, GPS with pre-fed maps and route-distance C charts.
5. Handy tools and spares to carry out basic wilderness repairs including puncture repair kit.
6. First aid kit and if operating in a high-altitude area an oxygen cylinder and emergency contact numbers in case of assistance required for causality evacuation.
7. Recording and photographic media with adequate batteries and power banks.

6. Equipment Care, Maintenance and Inspection

1. Operators must ensure that the vehicles used to provide a service are maintained to a standard that complies with or exceeds the servicing program specified by the manufacturer. Road worthy condition of the vehicle to be certified for each trip, norms to be fixed to ensure the physical fitness of drivers whenever necessary.
2. A complete comprehensive review by a specialist should be done before every ride to ascertain top condition of engine, body, brakes, lights and tires before letting a vehicle on rental/ tour.
3. The inspections should include the following:
 - All controls, cables, lights and battery.
 - All fluids engine, coolant, clutch and brakes.
 - Tires, chain/ belt and sprocket, suspension.
 - All major systems e.g. electrical, fuel, ignition and engine, etc.
4. Additionally, a system of daily checks should be in place to ensure optimum availability of a safe motorcycle during the day of ride.

7. SOPs and Operating Instructions

All operators must have in place a system of standard actions to be taken for various contingencies to ensure a satisfactory and consistent response to a situation and help provide a safer expedition environment. It is not possible to have a SOP for all possible contingencies, but at a basic level should cover following situations:

1. Pre ride checks and briefings to include local traffic rules.
2. Actions to be taken in case of motorcycle failure/ accident.
3. Medical emergency response, minor/ major injury and evacuation.
4. Lost party member tracking and retrieval.
5. Group riding rules including night riding.
6. Motorcycle and safety gear inspection.
7. Transparent Practices: Operators should clearly display rental terms, conditions, and prices, ensuring transparency and fairness in all transactions.
8. Fair Competition: Operators should engage in healthy competition and provide services that stand out through quality and customer satisfaction rather than coercion.
9. Respectful Interaction: Tourists are encouraged to hire local services to support the local economy and businesses. However, under no circumstances should operators force or pressure tourists into renting their motorcycles. Tourists must feel free to choose their preferred mode of transportation without any undue influence or harassment.

8. Documentation

1. All necessary government registrations, clearances and permits for tour operations.
2. Driving licenses, motorcycle documents.
3. All insurances (both for equipment and personnel).
4. Carnets and overland permits (as applicable).
5. International driving licenses.

9. Risk Mitigation

Risk management and mitigation in its broadest term is to understand the risk involved in a particular activity and to take appropriate steps to reduce or nullify the same. For example: hot weather riding, following can be done to mitigate the risk involved – cover up, hydrate, avoid caffeine, replace electrolytes, start early stop early and cool down. Similarly rainy weather, cold weather, Himalayan trail, etc. requires specialist handling of riding group.

There are two types of risks - subjective and objective. Subjective are inherent to the rider's attitude. Objective are created by environmental, motorcycle, road and rider health conditions, these are the ones that tour operators need to focus on. Additionally, a written risk assessment should be carried out for each excursion/ tour. Involving identification and analysis of all contingencies and dangers involved, actions should be taken to mitigate these and participants should be informed of these special circumstances.

10. Emergencies and Rescue

Emergency on a motorcycle tour can be majorly of two natures - equipment failure/ accident or medical nature e.g. a minor fall may just require first aid or a serious injury may require evacuation. Therefore, depending on severity of both detailed action plan/ SOP should be available with the ride leader, including things like contact numbers of emergency services, to implement.

11. Safety Briefing

A pre ride safety briefing covering all aspects of risks and action to be taken both by conducting staff and the participants should be covered in detail, some aspects are highlighted below:

1. Local traffic rules, speed limits and documents to be carried on person.
2. Wearing of protective gear.
3. Motorcycle controls, operation and pre-ride checks.
4. Rider responsibilities and risk awareness.
5. Group riding procedure to include lane position, following other vehicle, head lights, signals and parking.
6. Handling dangerous surfaces and any special riding conditions.
7. Night riding and fatigue.
8. Indemnity bond by participant.
9. Avoiding alcohol prior to/ during the ride.
10. Staying hydrated and rest stops.

12. Medical Concerns

1. **These are of two types:** personal and accident related during the ride. For personal medical conditions the client should be advised to carry sufficient medication and inform about the same to the ride leader. For accident related the ride leader should have a plan in addition to a well-stocked first aid kit.
2. **Infections:** An antibacterial disinfectant soap/ sanitizer should be recommended to keep infections at bay.
3. **Inoculations:** When travelling in rural areas have vaccinations against cholera and tetanus. Consult your local clinic for up-to-date information.
4. **Acute Mountain Sickness:** This applies to tours in Ladakh and high-altitude rides. Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) is an illness that can affect travelers at high altitude (typically above 10,000 ft. or 3,050 mt.). Tour leaders must have full knowledge of handling customers in such an environment - precautions and emergency procedures. Thus, for carrying pit bike rallies in such areas:
 - Tour leaders must have full knowledge of handling customers in such an environment - precautions and emergency procedures.
 - A one-day acclimatization is mandatory before starting any adventure activity in such areas.

13. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant of recognition must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The owner must possess the 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. The agency must own or have the ability to hire suitable, registered motorcycles and all accessories as specified above. The motorcycles must be well maintained, serviced and in perfect working order with perfect documentation/ insurance.
3. The agency must have at least one full time trained motorcycle trip leaders with knowledge about leading motorcycling trips safely, group dynamics, traffic rules, communication skills and field repairs/ punctures, etc. They must possess valid first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
4. The operator must have SOPs for different itineraries/ motorcycling trips offered and emergency action plans for all trips.
5. The agency must be registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
6. A detailed risk assessment must be carried out by the trip leaders with the backup team prior to conducting any trips.
7. A list of hospitals, police stations and workshops along the route should be carried by the trip leaders.
8. A detailed SOP for inspecting motorcycles, documentation and safety gear prior to conducting trips must be in position.
9. The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace' policy and conform to high sustainability standards.

Wildlife Tours

Guidelines and Regulations

Department of Tourism

Union Territory of Ladakh



Guidelines and Regulations for Wildlife Tours

1. Introduction

Ladakh is one of the very special destinations for wildlife tours in the Indian Western Himalayas. It is known as the Snow Leopard capital of the world. Snow Leopard sightings/ tours in Ladakh are operational over three decades. Local wildlife tour operators over the years have worked hard and managed to maintain good standards of services to the national and international guests and as a result wildlife tourism, especially Snow Leopard sightings/ tours in Ladakh has increased manifold. Wildlife tours is a very important segment of the tourism industry.

Recent data on number of Snow Leopards in India has reiterated Ladakh as its core habitat. The report recorded 477 Snow Leopard in Ladakh; a record increase compared to earlier estimated number of 250-350. The current estimate of 718 Snow Leopard in India is about 10-15% of the world's population, which means, Ladakh is host to minimum of 7-9% of world's Snow Leopard population.

Some of the very rare high-altitude mammals found in Ladakh are Snow Leopard, Himalayan Brown Bear, Pallas's Cat, Eurasian Lynx, Tibetan Wolf, Tibetan Antelope, Wild Yak, Tibetan Gazelle, Tibetan Argali, Himalayan Ibex, Blue sheep, Ladakh Urial, Tibetan Ass/ Wild Ass or Kiang, Tibetan Red Fox, etc.

Some of the very rare high-altitude birds found in Ladakh are Black-neck Crane, Eurasian Eagle Owl, Tibetan Snowcock, Himalayan Snowcock, Tibetan Sandgrouse, Tibetan Lark, Little Owl, White-browed Tit Warbler, Great Rose Finch, Pale Rose Finch, Saker Falcon, Upland Buzzard, Ibis Bill, Lammergeiere, Mountain Chiffchaff, Dusky Thrush, Naumann's Thrush, etc. Ladakh is also host to around 115 butterflies, with some rare butterflies like Ladakh Banded Apollo, Leh Mountain Blue, Ladakh Meadow Blue, Ladakh Tortoiseshell, Regal Apollo, Ladakh Copper, Ladakh Mountain Satyr, etc.

A favorable time for various wildlife spotting in Ladakh is below:

- **Snow Leopard:** mainly operational in winter months, November till April
- **Himalayan Brown Bear:** mainly operational in spring and fall, but also spotted in summer months
- **Bird Sighting:** whole year is good for high-altitude bird sighting
- **Pallas's Cat:** whole year is good
- **Eurasian Lynx:** mainly operational in winter months, November till April
- **Butterfly:** summer months, June till September

2. Guide/ Instructor – Basic Minimum Qualifications and Experience

Naturalists/ wildlife guides/ spotters who are leading wildlife tours in the Union Territory of Ladakh should meet the following criteria:

1. A minimum of 5 years' experience in leading and conducting wildlife (Snow Leopard/ Birding/Himalayan Brown Bear/ Pallas's Cat/ Eurasian Lynx/ Butterflies) tours in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

2. Completed a minimum 1 course as a wildlife guide/ naturalist/ birding guide from a reputed wildlife organization, or conducted by the Department of Wildlife Protection, UT Ladakh.
3. Maintain a logbook containing authenticated records of wildlife sightings and new records.
4. All guides should have a comprehensive understanding of preciousness of Ladakh's Wildlife & Environment.
5. They should also have a sound knowledge of overall understanding wildlife of the entire Western Himalayan region.

3. Equipment

1. The correct use and proper maintenance of equipment are essential for conducting wildlife tours.
2. Equipment should be of the highest standard available and preferably certified by ISI or of an international standard.
3. Spotting scopes: There are many different types of spotting scopes. The operator and leader must have sound knowledge in operating and use of different types of spotting scopes and binoculars. He/she should be able to handle the equipment with ease.
4. Hardware (tripods for scopes & heavy cameras): There are wide range of tripods & the naturalist/ guide/ spotter must have sound knowledge of their applications for smooth sighting of rare wildlife with clients.
5. All equipment is subject to wear and tear and must be checked before every use. Incorrect storage, use, and monitoring of rated and approved equipment is usually the cause of equipment failure. Operators and leaders must have sound knowledge of this and have systems in place to control and manage their equipment.

4. Inspection and Maintenance Procedures

Inspections and maintenance require a sound knowledge of the systems and equipment themselves and therefore must be carried out by qualified persons. As a minimum, the wildlife guide/ naturalist/ spotter must be qualified person in terms of understanding and knowledge of Ladakh's Wildlife and experience. Inspection and maintenance of wildlife tours equipment at regular intervals is a must for every operator.

5. SOPs and Operating Instructions

All operators must maintain and update a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for their operations and get the same vetted by the UT Administration or the concerned operators' association/s of Ladakh, from time to time. Besides covering the methodologies that are adopted by the operator in organizing wildlife tours, such as assessing members' qualifications, medical conditions, and experience, procedures for obtaining various permissions, travel to the National Park and Sanctuaries, avoidance of high-altitude sickness, safety precautions, the following must be included in the SOPs:

1. The wildlife escort/ naturalist/ guide/ spotter leading the expedition should be well experienced and should take full responsibility of the group for successful completion of the wildlife sighting tour.

2. Wildlife tours in Ladakh shall be operated through a local registered travel company and shall be accompanied with a local experienced naturalist/ guide/ spotter.
3. The group or guests should be educated about do's and don'ts with regard to the wildlife and sensitivity of activities within the National Parks and Sanctuaries.
4. The client must be told about chances of sighting of particular species, and they must be well informed about regulations of wildlife tours in Ladakh.

6. Documentation

The operator must maintain, at the minimum the following documentation:

1. Details of all guides and instructors including, copies of certifications, area of experience, and feedback from clients.
2. Copies of all permits, permissions of current expeditions.
3. Copies of identification documents, insurance cover, medical concerns, and details of next of kin for all participants, guides, and instructors.
4. Copy of SOP.
5. Current list of emergency contact numbers.
6. Emergency action plan.

7. Risk Mitigation

To mitigate the risk of high-altitude, the following is advised:

1. Participants should be physically and medically fit.
2. The group should never be allowed to venture into field without a local naturalist or guide.
3. To ensure that environmental safeguards are implemented in their program so that the National Parks and Sanctuaries visited by them suffer no damage and are left clean for subsequent wildlife expeditions.
4. Every wildlife group must carry at least 4 sets of radio sets (walkie-talkie) for smooth operations.

8. Emergencies and Rescues

In addition:

1. Adequate first aid medical equipment must be available, pulse oximeter to be part of the first aid kit.
2. Every group should have oxygen cylinder(s) to be used in case emergencies.
3. Indemnity bond should be signed by every client before leaving for such wildlife tours.

9. Safety Briefing

The lead guide/ tour leader must give a proper briefing to the wildlife tour members before starting from source location in Ladakh.

10. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant of recognition must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The owner must possess the 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. The entity must own specialized equipment commensurate with the needs of undertaking and running such an operation.
3. The entity must have qualified personnel on its payroll. This person must have the requisite experience in the activity and have practical field knowledge.
4. The entity must operate with the required permits/ licenses and registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
5. The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace' policy and conform to high sustainability standards.

Paragliding

Guidelines and Regulations

Department of Tourism
Union Territory of Ladakh



Guidelines and Regulations for Paragliding

1. Introduction

Paragliding and hang gliding loosely come under free flying, along with gliding. Unlike gliders, both are very light and can be launched on foot, creating a separate category of foot-launchable gliders. Since it is an adventure activity, instructors/ guides must be qualified, and the equipment used should be of the highest standard.

Paraglider is a glider that achieves its aerofoil structure without any solid reinforcement; from RAM air pressure between two layers of fabric.

Hang Glider is a delta wing that has a fabric aerofoil with an aluminum frame and inserts.

2. Adventure Guides: Basic Minimum Qualifications and Experience

Tandem:

1. Pilots must have minimum P4 level training as a solo pilot, achieved 100 hours of solo flying, and a minimum of 100 km xc flight within two days or 60 km xc flight within one day in EN-B class glider.
2. A conversion course to tandem pilot must be undertaken.
3. High-altitude 4,000 mt. AMSL above, 50 non-commercial flights as a sports tandem pilot before converting to commercial flying.
4. If available, a pilot should be duly certified by an accredited national association.
5. SIV advance (Simulation d'incident en Vol (Simulation of incident in flight) Refer FAI CIVL SafePro Para.

Instructor:

1. P5 solo rating on FAI safe pro levels.
2. Worked as trainee instructor with a reputed instructor for 2 years.
3. Taken instructor certification from an accredited association.
4. High-altitude 4,000 mt. AMSL above flying experience with conducting training experience.

Equipment Required:

1. EN /SHV/ DHV/ AFNOR certified wing and reserve parachute.
2. Certified harness and helmet.

3. Ratings

The ratings describe the paragliding proficiency or skill levels of the National Paragliding Rating System – India. These levels are considered equivalent of major systems around the world and follow the FAI Safepro Para system.

Levels	PA1	BHPA	USHPA	APPI
Level 1 (P2)	Student Pilot	Elementary	Novice	Explore

Level 2 (P3)	Novice Pilot	Club	Intermediate	APPI Pilot
Level 3 (P4)	Pilot	Pilot	Advance	Intermediate Pilot
Level 4 (P5)	Advance Pilot	Advanced	Master	Advance Pilot
Level 5	Sports Tandem	Tandem	Tandem Instructor	Non-Commercial Tandem

4. Equipment Care and Maintenance

A logbook of equipment and maintenance is to be kept.

5. Inspections & Maintenance Procedures

All commercially used equipment must be inspected for fabric porosity and line length annually.

6. SOPs and Operating Instructions

1. Passengers should be briefed on the basics of flight and the risks involved.
2. Staff introductions and their training.
3. Passengers should sign liability release waivers.
4. Passengers/ pilots should wear appropriate clothing that is safe and comfortable for the task and weather.
5. No aerobatic maneuvers are to be done with clients.
6. No overloading or underloading of equipment.
7. Should fly conforming to VFR and in VMC. Cloud or night flying is strictly prohibited.
8. Any incident is to be fully documented and reported.
9. Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from participating in high-risk activities, whereas those aged 12 and above may engage in activities with moderate risk. Minors involved in adventure activities must be accompanied by an adult.

7. Documentation

1. Pilot certification and logbook.
2. Equipment logbook and service record.
3. Liability insurance, pilot insurance.
4. Emergency action plan.

8. Risk Mitigation

1. Operations are to be undertaken at sites judged to be safe for paragliding/ hang gliding operations.
2. Selected sites should not have any turbulence sources or hazards.
3. Life jackets are to be mandatory if operating near water.
4. Wing should be inspected annually for porosity and line lengths.
5. A first aid kit, stretcher (spinal board), and qualified staff should be available at the site.
6. Pilots should be first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.

7. Emergency response time (ambulance) and distance to the hospital should be conveyed to the passenger and emergency numbers available at the location.
8. A detailed emergency action plan should be in position and training for the same provided to the staff periodically.

9. Emergencies and Rescues

1. First aid and proper equipment for stabilization and removal from a life-threatening situation.
2. Contact numbers for an ambulance and other emergency services.
3. Evacuate at the very earliest.
4. Get witness statements before debriefing them.
5. Write your report.
6. Submit reports and follow up on the injured.
7. Take immediate action to improve any weakness in equipment or staff exposed by the incident.

10. Safety Briefing

All instructors and guides should be able to give a thorough safety briefing that covers all safety aspects and detailed instructions about a safe flight. This briefing must be clear and given in English, Hindi, or the local language that the passenger can understand.

1. Passengers should be briefed on equipment and the clip-in, and clip-out process.
2. The briefing should cover emergency procedures.
3. Any sensitive parts within reach of passengers should be marked and briefed upon appropriately.
4. Essential communication terms/ signals should be explained.

11. Medical Concerns

There should be a clear declaration of medical conditions that are not suitable for paragliding or hang gliding the operator. Any flight taken with differently abled passengers should be well planned, documented, and reported in advance. All instructors and guides must be able to ensure that a question regarding medical issues is asked before the activity is conducted. It is recommended that heart patients, those with spinal issues, recent surgery, or any other medical issue of concern, expecting mothers, and underage children do not undertake the activity. It is also recommended to check for epilepsy and asthmatic patients, on the extent of their ailment. Asthma inhalers must be carried by clients and preferably handed over to the guide.

12. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant of recognition must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The owner must possess the 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. The entity must have qualified personnel (minimum two full-time qualified staff) on their payroll. This person must have the requisite experience in the activity and have valid first aid/ CPR

certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.

3. The entity must own specialized equipment commensurate with the needs of undertaking and running such an operation (specified above). Proof of good equipment, certification where applicable, and inspection of safety equipment.
4. The entity must operate with the required permits/ licenses and registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
5. The entity must have at least one certified and experienced person on its Board.
6. The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace policy' and conform to high sustainability standards.
7. Inspection of site and permission/ right of use of the site.
8. Declaration of conforming to flight rules, risk mitigation, and airspace rules.
9. Declaration to follow existing association rules and new ones that might be introduced.

Parasailing

Guidelines and Regulations

Department of Tourism
Union Territory of Ladakh



Guidelines and Regulations for Parasailing

1. Introduction

Parasailing in Ladakh offers a thrilling way to experience the region's stunning landscapes from a unique vantage point. While this activity can be exhilarating, it also carries inherent risks that must be managed to ensure the safety of participants. Proper training, adherence to safety guidelines, and equipment checks are essential for a secure parasailing experience.

2. Guides/Instructors

- If operating over water, the boat operator must have a remote-control powerboat handling [PBH-4 (LEVEL 3)] certification from the National Institute of Water sports or Authorized Agency.
- Parasailing operators to have a minimum of 6 Months of experience and should have worked for a minimum of 50 days as a parasailing pilot and have an experience of at least 20 flights irrespective of whether operating over land or water.
- The Parasailing driver must have a valid driver's license for four-wheel vehicle if operating over land.
- A Parasailing (Equipment) guide is responsible for safely conducting parasailing for clients by monitoring the sources of danger at land/deck, sea and air during every flight. The guide/instructor should work in close coordination with the driver, launcher and receiver.
- Must have adequate experience in carrying out parasailing operations independently.
- They should have valid FA/CPR certification.
- The operator must ensure that the Supervisor/Observer/ Look-out stationed on the Parasailing boat/Vehicle is adequately experienced in operations. It is also desirable for such person to have proficiency in handling of the boat to act in emergency situations.
- Under no circumstances shall the operator & crew utilize any equipment outside the parameters for which it was designed & must always adhere to manufacturers' specifications.
- Must prepare a risk assessment plan for all unforeseen events.
- The guides/instructors should have a high level of fitness (both cardiovascular and motor) to withstand high endurance activity for long durations in open and sun exposed areas. The person should have proficient analytical ability as well as a friendly/approachable and motivating personality to deal with all kinds of clients.

3. Customer Training

Before taking flight, all participants must undergo a comprehensive training session led by certified instructors. This session will cover essential skills such as proper use of parasailing equipment, safety protocols, and flight procedures. Participants will learn about the significance of weight distribution, harness adjustment, and the importance of following verbal and visual signals during the flight.

Additionally, training shall include information on assessing weather conditions, understanding local terrain, and emergency response procedures in case of unexpected situations. Instructors shall emphasize the necessity of wearing safety gear, such as life vests, and the importance of adhering to

guidelines to minimize environmental impact. By completing this training, customers will be better prepared to enjoy their parasailing adventure while prioritizing safety and responsibility.

4. Equipment

The equipment used for parasailing in Ladakh must be sourced from reputable manufacturers and certified for safety and performance. Equipment required for operations include Parasailing boat with Min. 300 HP capacity engine, parachute as required, harness, rope, wind meter, rectangular rescue tube, helmets, lifejackets, fire extinguisher and rescue-boat, Lifebuoys, rescue quoits, fire buckets with lanyards, communication equipment, medical kit, anchor with 30 meters of rope and mobile phone. Regular maintenance and proper storage of all gear essential to ensure reliability during operations.

- If operating over land, a robust and powerful vehicle, typically an SUV, 4x4 truck, or similar heavy-duty vehicle, is recommended.
- If operating over water, a proper floatation device is to be used. If operating over ground a certified helmet, knee and elbow protection must be used.

Only trained and authorized personnel should have access to the equipment, preventing unauthorized handling that could compromise safety. All equipment that is deemed defective or past its service life must be promptly removed from use and disposed of in accordance with safety regulations. Additionally, materials used in the construction of parasailing gear, such as ropes and harnesses, should be regularly checked for wear and tear, with records kept of their condition and replacement dates.

5. Inspections and Maintenance Procedures

Inspections and maintenance procedures are vital for ensuring the safety and functionality of parasailing equipment in Ladakh. All equipment must be inspected in accordance with the established safety manual, with daily, weekly, and yearly checks conducted to identify any potential issues. Each inspection should be meticulously documented in a safety log maintained at the site, providing a clear record of the equipment's condition over time. Regular maintenance should be performed on all gear, including parachutes, harnesses, and towing systems, to prevent wear and tear that could compromise safety. These maintenance activities must also be recorded, ensuring transparency and accountability in the upkeep of equipment.

6. SOPs and Operating Instructions

- Conduct thorough equipment inspections, including harnesses, parachutes, and towing systems.
- Verify weather conditions, ensuring wind speeds and visibility are within safe limits.
- Cloud/night flying is strictly prohibited.
- No aerobatic maneuvers are permitted.
- No operator shall knowingly parasail in rain, heavy fog or during a known lighting storm within 50 km from the parasailing area, in addition a daily weather log shall be maintained.
- A wind meter must be kept on-board throughout operations to measure the wind-speed and direction.

- A stretch of 200 feet shall be clearly marked on the water body with a notice board warning others to keep clear.
- When operating over land, the activity should take place in a wide, open area that is clear of any obstacles.
- If operating over water, Life jacket and light helmets (ISI approved) should be made mandatory for the passengers. At all times participants shall wear a properly fitted type approved life jackets.
- Provide detailed safety briefings to participants before launching, covering equipment usage, emergency procedures, and physical requirements.
- The operator shall strictly ensure that passengers are free from health, medical problems such as blood pressure, heart problems, etc. and shall obtain necessary undertaking regarding risk & release of liability waiver from all passengers prior to starting the activity.
- The riders wearing loose cloths such as sari, dhoti, *dhupatta* etc. shall be discouraged totally from undertaking the rides.
- In no circumstance, pregnant women and children below 16 years of age, be allowed to parasail.
- No operator shall allow more than 2 passengers to take a ride on a single chute at a time.
- Implement a clear communication system between the ground crew and parasailing operator to monitor conditions and participant safety.
- Establish and train staff on emergency protocols, including landing procedures in adverse conditions and rescues.
- Ensure first aid kits and emergency response equipment are readily available on-site.
- A rectangular rescue tube recommended by the National Institute of Water Sports / authorized agencies should be always available in the parasail and rescue boats.
- Adhere to local environmental regulations to minimize ecological impact, including avoiding wildlife disturbance and littering.
- Conduct routine maintenance checks and keep records of all equipment inspections.
- Monitor participants throughout the experience to ensure adherence to safety protocols.
- Use reliable weather forecasting tools to assess conditions regularly and make informed decisions about operations.
- Conduct post-activity debriefings with participants to gather feedback and improve future operations.
- Inspect and clean equipment after each use to maintain safety standards.

7. Special Arrangements for Children

- Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from participating in high-risk activities, whereas those aged 12 and above may engage in activities with moderate risk. Minors involved in adventure activities must be accompanied by an adult.
- Provide comprehensive safety briefings tailored for young participants and their guardians, explaining safety procedures, equipment usage, and emergency protocols in clear, accessible language.

- Staff must be trained in first aid and emergency response specific to younger participants. A first aid kit should be readily accessible on-site.

8. Documentation

The following documents are required to be maintained at the site:

1. Signed consent forms from parents or guardians for minors, acknowledging risks and confirming eligibility.
2. Records of safety briefings conducted for participants, including attendance sheets and materials used.
3. Daily, weekly, and yearly inspection logs for all parasailing equipment, detailing condition assessments and maintenance performed.
4. Documentation of routine maintenance activities, including repair records and replacement dates for equipment.
5. Daily weather logs noting wind speeds, visibility, and any adverse conditions encountered, along with decisions made regarding operations.
6. Document outlining established emergency procedures, including landing protocols and rescue operations.
7. Copies of first aid and emergency response training certifications for all staff involved in parasailing operations.

9. Risk Mitigation

The following measures will reduce the risk factor:

1. Conduct a thorough risk assessment prior to operations, identifying potential hazards and developing strategies to mitigate them.
2. Implement a checklist for pre-flight inspections of all equipment, including parachutes, harnesses, and towing systems, to ensure they are in optimal condition.
3. Continuously monitor weather conditions using reliable forecasting tools. Establish protocols for postponing or canceling flights in adverse weather (e.g., high winds, rain, or low visibility).
4. Ensure all operators and crew members are certified and trained in safety procedures, emergency response, and equipment handling to enhance operational safety.
5. Screen participants for health conditions that may pose risks (e.g., heart issues, high blood pressure) and require signed waivers acknowledging the inherent risks of parasailing.
6. Establish clear communication protocols between ground crew, instructors, and participants to monitor conditions and ensure prompt response in case of emergencies.
7. Train staff on emergency protocols, including rapid response procedures for rescues, safe landing techniques, and first aid measures.
8. First Aid kit, stretcher (spinal board) and qualified staff should be available at the site.
9. Require all participants to wear approved life jackets and helmets during the activity to enhance safety and reduce injury risk.

10. Enforce regulations that limit the number of participants per chute to two, ensuring better control and safety during flights.
11. Schedule routine maintenance for all equipment, keeping detailed logs of inspections, repairs, and replacements to ensure reliability and safety.

10. Emergencies and Rescues

The staff should be fully prepared to deal with emergencies and carry out rescue as per the SOP without looking for orders and in a minimum time frame. The following will help in mitigating risk:

1. Awareness of risks
2. Training in rescues
3. First aid/ CPR & other medical training of the staff
4. An Emergency Action Plan should be in position and training for the same provided periodically to the staff
5. Doctor on call
6. Rescue evacuation to be worked out
7. Tie up with local hospital
8. Procedure for reporting incidents
9. Funds earmarked and available for medical cover
10. Regular briefing of the staff

11. Safety Briefing

A comprehensive safety briefing is essential for all parasailing participants in Ladakh and should be conducted personally by a certified instructor. This briefing must cover vital information such as equipment usage, safety protocols, emergency procedures, and proper harness adjustments. Additionally, an audio-visual presentation can enhance understanding and retention. Participants must sign a disclaimer form acknowledging the risks involved before the activity begins. To reinforce safety awareness, key safety measures should be prominently displayed in multiple locations around the launch area. The briefing should be reiterated immediately before each activity to ensure that all participants are well-informed and prepared for their parasailing experience.

12. Medical Concerns

The medical restrictions should be displayed prominently. Fitness certificate to be signed by the participants. No compromise is to be made in case of any medical problem. Medical restrictions for Parasailing include:

1. Heart problem
2. High blood pressure
3. Asthma or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
4. Severe Motion Sickness
5. Neurological Disorders

6. Recent fracture, surgery, or hospitalization
7. Epilepsy
8. Pregnancy

13. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

It is highly recommended that any entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant of recognition must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The owner must possess the 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. The entity must own specialized certified equipment commensurate with the needs of undertaking and running such an operation (listed above).
3. The entity must have qualified personnel (minimum one qualified master operator & one assistance) on their payroll. These personnel must carry the requisite experience in the activity and have valid first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
4. The entity must operate with the required permits/ licenses.
5. The agency must be registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
6. The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace policy' and conform to high sustainability standards.

Para Motoring

Guidelines and Regulations

Department of Tourism
Union Territory of Ladakh



Guidelines and Regulations for Para Motoring

1. Introduction

Paramotor is a paraglider powered by a small motor and propeller, either foot launched, or trike based. The following rules will apply to both PPG (powered paraglider) and powered parachutes. Powered parachutes have lesser performance canopies but able to handle bigger engines.

1. **Paramotors:** paraglider or dedicated paramotor wing with reflex foil design. Powered by sub 350cc engine unless it has torque cancelling technology. Can launch with trike/quad or on foot.
2. **Powered Parachute:** Proper powered parachute powered by engine and based on trike/quad only.

2. Adventure Guides: Basic Minimum Qualifications and Experience

Pilots must have at least P3 level training as a paraglider pilot, completed a conversion course to paramotors, and accumulated a minimum of 200 hours of solo paramotoring experience before carrying passengers. There should be an additional 100 hours of non-commercial tandem flying before undertaking commercial tandem flight.

3. Equipment Required

1. EN (The European Committee for Standardization) / SHV (Swiss Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association) / DHV (Deutscher Hangegleiter Verband) / AFNOR (French Association of Normalization) certified wing and reserve parachute.
2. A motor/trike set either from a well-known company having sold more than 100 units and been in the market for more than 2 years.
3. If fully or partly self-fabricated, a minimum testing for 200 hours or one year whichever is less (this must be non-commercial flying) before any commercial flying. Self-developed parts of unit should be presented to peers for review.
4. All testing and improvement of the self-developed part of a kit should be well documented in a logbook, with videos and photographs. Once national certification of paramotors comes into force, these should conform to the rules.

4. Equipment Care and Maintenance

1. A logbook of equipment and maintenance to be kept.
2. All flying activity, repairs and modifications must be logged. If there are any serious modifications, they will be required to undergo appropriate amount of testing hours again. These hours to be stipulated and declared along with modification entry along with reasoning for the same.
3. Recommended service interval of all major parts to be posted at place of business and in beginning of logbook and strictly followed.

5. Inspection and Maintenance Procedures

All commercially used equipment to be inspected as per manufacturers specifications. A peer review of equipment and operations by a group of peers from outside your company (minimum 3 people) must be conducted prior to commencing commercial operations and minimum once a year. Maintenance schedule if given by manufacturer to be strictly adhered to. If assembled equipment, then schedule should match that of known producers/ conducted at shorter intervals.

6. SOPs and Operating Instructions

1. Passenger should be clearly briefed on basics of flight covering risks and staff introductions and training.
2. Passenger should sign liability release waiver.
3. Passenger /pilot should wear appropriate clothing that is safe and comfortable for the task and weather.
4. No aerobatic maneuvers to be done below 600 ft AGL.
5. No overloading or underloading of equipment.
6. Should fly conforming to VFR and in VMC. No cloud or night flying allowed.
7. Any incident to be fully documented and reported.
8. Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from participating in high-risk activities, whereas those aged 12 and above may engage in activities with moderate risk. Minors involved in adventure activities must be accompanied by an adult.

7. Documentation

1. Pilot certifications and logbook.
2. Equipment logbook and service record.
3. Liability cover when and where available.
4. Emergency action plan.

8. Risk Mitigation

1. Operations to be undertaken at sites judged to be safe for paramotoring operations.
2. Paramotoring sites should not have any turbulence sources or hazards.
3. Life jacket to be mandatory if operating near water. In such cases, equipment should have flotation attached.
4. Wing should be inspected annually for porosity and line lengths.
5. Motor should be serviced regularly, as per the manufacturer's specifications.
6. First aid kit, stretcher (spinal board) and qualified staff should be available at the site.
7. Pilots should be first aid/ CPR certified.
8. Emergency response time (ambulance) and distance to hospital should be clearly conveyed to passenger and emergency numbers available at location.
9. A detailed emergency action plan should be in position and training for the same provided periodically.

9. Emergencies and Rescues

1. Immediate first aid and stabilization and removal from life threatening situation.
2. Contact ambulance and other emergency services and evacuate at the very earliest.
3. Get witness statements before debriefing them.
4. Write your own report.
5. Submit reports and follow up on injured.
6. Take action to improve on any weakness in equipment or staff exposed by incident.

10. Safety Briefing

1. Passengers should be briefed on equipment and clip in, clip out process.
2. Briefing should cover emergency procedures.
3. Any sensitive parts within reach of passengers should be clearly marked and briefed upon appropriately.
4. Essential communication terms/ signals should be explained.

11. Medical Concerns

There should be clear declarations of what medical conditions are not suitable for sport. Any flight taken with differently abled passengers should be well planned, documented and reported in advance. A formal clearance taken from association in charge if there is one.

12. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant of recognition must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The owner must possess the 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. The entity must operate with the required permits/ licenses and registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
3. Registration with association controlling the sport if any.
4. Proof of trained staff.
5. Proof of good equipment, certification where applicable and inspection of rest of the equipment.
6. Inspection of site and right of use of site.
7. Declaration of conforming to flight rules, risk mitigation and airspace rules.
8. Declaration to follow existing association rules and new ones that might be introduced.
9. The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace' policy and conform to high sustainability standards.

Hot Air Ballooning

Guidelines and Regulations

Department of Tourism
Union Territory of Ladakh



Guidelines and Regulations for Hot Air Ballooning

1. Introduction

Hot air balloons work according to the natural law that hot air is lighter than cold air. To generate lift and therefore take flight, hot air balloons employ a burner that heats the air within the balloon until it becomes lighter than the external air. The difference in the temperature inside the balloon relative to the outside temperature, determines the amount of lift the balloon will have. Accordingly, by controlling the internal temperature, the balloon's flight is controlled with respect to ascent and descent.

The single most defining factor of balloon flight safety is the weather. From take-off to landing, fog, rain, snow, wind, thermal winds, etc. are all key elements to consider when attempting a safe hot air balloon flight. Before a safe balloon flight can begin, the pilot must always check the forecast and select a suitable departure and landing area. The DGCA. (Director General Civil Aviation) in India has formulated regulations for hot air balloons in the Civil Aviation Requirements, CAR Section 2 – Airworthiness, Series 'F' Part XV, Revision-1, dated 11th November 2008 of DGCA, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India and wherever any clarification needed should be read with this CAR.

There are two main types of hot air balloon flight:

1. **Free Flight** – This is where a Balloon takes off from one location and travels with the wind to land at another alternate location.
2. **Tethered Flight** – This is when ropes are safely attached to the balloon and the balloon ascends and descends on the spot, with the ropes restraining the balloon from flying away with the wind.

There is no difference as far as the regulations are concerned between free flights (without ropes) & tethered flights (with ropes). All the requirements for operator certification, pilot qualifications, equipment registration and maintenance have to be met for tethered flights as well.

Note: Considering the strategic geographical location and atmospheric conditions, only 'Tethered Flights' are permissible in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

2. Adventure Guide/ Instructor – Basic Minimum Qualifications and Experience

1. To fly hot air balloons, one must have a balloon pilot license issued by the DGCA.
2. If an operator employs foreign pilot, then those pilots must have a valid FATA (Foreign Aircrew Temporary Authorization), which is issued by the DGCA.
3. As part of all pilot license requirements, every pilot must be having a medical certificate endorsed by the relevant Civil Aviation authority.

3. Equipment Required

Instruments & equipment to be carried by balloons in flight:

1. Hand fire extinguisher of an approved type, in the main compartment carrying personnel.

2. Safety harness for each personnel on board. The harness for each person need not be provided for gondola or basket type of balloons.
3. A compass, an altimeter and a rate of climb indicator.
4. First aid kit (as per CAR Series X Part III).
5. A fuel quantity gauge.
6. An envelope temperature indicator.
7. 3 separate ignition sources.
8. Two-way R/T communication equipment.
9. Flight manuals, operations manual and all other relevant manuals as specified by the DGCA.

4. Equipment Care and Maintenance

Balloons are certified aircraft and, as such, are regulated by the DGCA. They must meet manufacturing standards and are subject to periodic inspections, just like a commercial aircraft. All balloons must be registered with the DGCA. and its registration number must be displayed on the balloon.

5. Inspection and Maintenance Procedures

Based on manufacturer maintenance manual, operators need to prepare an Aircraft Maintenance Program (AMP) which must be approved by the DGCA. Details of all inspection schedules are as follows:

Part 1: Scheduled Inspections

These routine inspections are accomplished at regular, planned intervals. They consist of following inspections:

Inspection Interval	Inspection
Pre-flight inspection	Before every flight
100 hr./1 year inspection schedule	At every 100 hr./1 year of flying

Part 2: Component Overhaul & Service Life Limits

Item	Frequency	Inspection
Envelope	300hr./3 years, whichever is earlier and then every 100 hr./1 year, whichever is earlier	Grab test
Fuel cylinder	5 years & 10 years	Hydrostatic test
Fuel cylinder pressure relief valve (PRV)	Every 10 years	Replace

Part 3: Unscheduled Inspections

This part contains the special inspections considered necessary if the balloon has been subjected to overheating or a hard landing or contact with power lines. Following are the conditions in which these inspections are to be carried out:

- Inspection after overheating

- Power line contact inspection
- Hard landing inspection

6. SOPs and Operating Instructions

Hot air ballooning should be undertaken with the following considerations:

1. Operating instructions must be followed as per the operations manual approved by the DGCA.
2. Flight manual information and approval. The flight manual must contain:
 - A description of the balloon and its technical equipment with explanatory sketches.
 - Operating limitations, normal procedures (including rigging, inflation and deflation), emergency procedures, and other relevant information specific to the balloon's operating characteristics and necessary for safe operation.
 - Specification of the permissible lifting gas.
 - Information for ground handling, transport and storage.
3. Height Limit: The maximum height limit for hot air balloons shall be 400 ft. from above ground level (AGL).

7. Documentation

The following documentation is required to be maintained by the operator:

I. Administrative:

- Details of owner and operator.
- Document indicating the annual inspections carried out by an inspecting body.
- List of pilots along with copies of relevant certifications.
- Evidence of public and other liability insurance.
- Copies of permission from the Airports Authority and local collector.

II. Operational:

- Logbook containing the daily operation sheets.
- Accident/ incident report sheets.
- Flight and operations log.
- Passenger manifest sheets.
- Risk assessment and management plan.
- Emergency procedures manual.
- Manufacturer's product manual.
- Current inspection report.

III. Following manuals have to be prepared and approved by DGCA:

- Maintenance Organization Exposition (MOE)
- Continuing Airworthiness Management Exposition (CAME)
- Operation manual.

- Security manual.
- Flight safety manual.
- Safety management system manual.

IV. Information to be provided for participants and visitors:

- Description of the activity.
- Safety instructions.
- Weather, medical and age restrictions.
- Information relating to personal public liability insurance of the operator.

8. Risk Mitigation, Emergencies and Rescue

The PIC should be familiar with all emergency procedures listed in the DGCA approved flight manual including:

- Emergency landings.
- Pilot flame failure.
- Fire on the ground.
- Fire in the air.
- Blast valve failure.
- Contact with power lines.

Each ballooning operator should establish and review procedures for all possible emergencies. Every pilot and passenger should thoroughly understand emergency procedures. Pre-flight passenger briefing must be carried out by the pilot in command. A monthly risk assessment needs to be carried out and reviewed by the chief pilot and the owner/ operator and records shall be maintained.

9. Safety Briefing

Safety information to passenger is essential, as is certain practical advice, like basket layout and how to access the basket. As per the flight manual, the following briefing must be provided to passengers:

1. General briefing
2. Passenger briefing (pre-inflation)
3. Pre-flight briefing
4. Pre-landing
5. After landing

10. Medical Concerns

As per the DGCA guidelines, all hot air balloons must have comprehensive insurance that includes coverage of all passengers, pilot and third-party liability. As a matter of best practice, all commercial operators should expect every passenger to have a basic level of general health and physical wellbeing, this includes:

- No recent surgery.
- No known significant hip, knee, neck or back problems.
- No recently broken bones.
- Not currently pregnant.
- Ability to stand for at least 1 hour without rest.
- Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from participating in high-risk activities, whereas those aged 12 and above may engage in activities with moderate risk. Minors involved in adventure activities must be accompanied by an adult.
- Not under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of flight.

The pilot is responsible to assess the medical condition of all passengers before boarding a hot air balloon flight and the pilot and the operator reserves the right to refuse any passenger to fly if they believe that they are not medically fit to fly.

11. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant of recognition must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The owner must possess the 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. For the commercial operations of hot air balloons, the operator must have a valid Air Operator Permit (AOP) as issued by the DGCA.
3. All balloon organizations have to be approved by the DGCA under the Aircraft Maintenance Organization (AMO) as per CAR-145 and Continuing Airworthiness Management Organization (CAMO) as per CAR-M, Sub-Part G.
4. If the operator is certified as an Aircraft Maintenance Organization (AMO), the Quality Manager (QM) must submit a Maintenance Organization Exposition (MOE) which must be subsequently approved by the DGCA.
5. For approval of Continuing Airworthiness Management Organization (CAMO), the Continuing Airworthiness Manager (CAM) must submit a Continuing Airworthiness Management Exposition (CAME) which must be subsequently approved by DGCA.
6. The agency must be registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
7. Before every flight, the pilot must ensure that the balloon has a valid and current certificate of Airworthiness (C of A) and Airworthiness Review Certificate (ARC).
8. Pilot has to check Certificate of Release to Service (CRS) before every flight which is issued by the Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME).
9. Hot air balloons engaged in commercial operations must possess a Type Certificate issued or validated by the DGCA or an export Certificate of Airworthiness issued by a country whose airworthiness standards are equivalent and acceptable to DGCA.
10. All balloon operators must have an emergency action plan. Training for the EAP must be regularly imparted to pilots and ground personnel. A list of emergency contact numbers must always be with the pilots and ground personnel.

11. The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace' policy and conform to high sustainability standards.

12. Logbooks

A technical log in respect of each balloon indicating details of every flight, like the date of flight, lift off time, total flight time, the places of departure and arrival, shall be maintained. The entries in the logbook shall be certified by the pilots undertaking the flights. A balloon logbook shall be maintained by every operator to keep a record of the flying hours of a balloon and the modification and other repair work carried out on the balloon.

13. Documents to be carried on board the flight

1. Technical log.
2. Certificate of Release to Service (CRS).
3. Certificate of Airworthiness (C of A).
4. Airworthiness Review Certificate (ARC).
5. Certificate of Registration (C of R).
6. Appropriate license for the pilot.
7. Weight schedule, duly approved by the DGCA.

14. Flying Permission

1. An operator is required to take permission from the Airport Authority of India (AAI) for each area in which they plan to operate a flight. This permission is issued after clearance and consultation is taken from the nearest aerodrome and ATC authority.
2. Permission is required in writing from all local Police and administrative authorities in the area where balloon flight operations are planned.
3. The operator must file a flight plan with the AAI before every flight.
4. All operators are required to take an FIC (Flight Information Centre) number and ADC (Air Defense Clearance) code from the concerned Departments before every flight. This information must be provided to the concerned ATC (Air Traffic Controller) before any flight can commence operations.
5. Pilots have to request for take-off permission from concerned ATC before every flight and must close the flight plan following the completion of every flight.

Rafting

Guidelines and Regulations

Department of Tourism
Union Territory of Ladakh



Guidelines and Regulations for Rafting

1. Introduction

Rafting is one of the most popular adventure activities in India. Since it is a dynamic sport, instructors/guides must be highly qualified, and the equipment used should be of the highest standard.

2. Trained Manpower

Personnel responsible for conducting rafting activities must be skilled to a high level in rafting techniques, rescue, life-saving techniques, and first aid/ CPR ability to communicate clearly and deliver a comprehensive safety briefing is mandatory.

3. Guides/ Instructors

Lead guides for water sports activities should, as a minimum, hold the following:

1. A minimum 16-hour (2 days) first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
2. Advanced certification from a recognized national or international institute of water sports, or a certificate from the registered operator that the individual “has experience of minimum 2 years in assisting in the particular activity and is independently capable of guiding groups and carrying out rescue operations”.
3. A WRT (White Water Rescue Technician) certification is highly recommended for guides on all grade IV and above rivers.
4. A logbook containing an authenticated record of river running experience.

4. Equipment

1. **Life Jackets or Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs)** must meet the minimum buoyancy requirement, be appropriate for the intended activity, and be certified/ approved by Indian Standards Institute, US Coastguard, British Canoe Union, or equivalent.
2. **Throw-able Rescue Devices/ Rescue Bags** must be available for immediate use.
3. **Safety Kayaks** must be available in the immediate vicinity (within visual distance) for prompt rescue with personnel duly qualified to operate/ carry out rescue operations.
4. **Helmets** are mandatory for all rafting trips.
5. **During Cold Weather Operations**, wet suits and spray jackets are recommended.

5. Operations

All rafting activities must begin with a thorough safety briefing. Operators must ensure that clients are briefed about the appropriate dress code, medical concerns, and age limit before the rafting trip. The briefing must highlight the equipment used, do's and don'ts, falling out of rafts, rescue bags, flips, and rescue and emergency procedures. The correct drill for rescue by a safety kayaker must also be demonstrated. A liability waiver and medical form highlighting the risk involved and that those participants are in good health, without any serious medical concerns, must be signed by all participants before the

commencement of the activity. Participants with any medical condition making them unfit for participation must not be allowed to participate. All rafts must have a rescue bag and all rafting trips must carry a first aid kit, a repair kit, and a pump.

6. Risk Mitigation

1. **Lifejackets:** No rafting activity should be undertaken without wearing a lifejacket throughout the time spent on the water. The life jacket must have adequate buoyancy, should be fastened properly and checked by the instructor before the commencement of rafting, and checked again above major rapids (grade III and above). The lifejacket must be of the appropriate size for the intended user.
2. **Guides:** No rafting activity should be conducted without the presence of trained guide/s. No single rafts must be operated, at least one raft and one kayak.
3. **Alcohol/ Drugs** during the activity and at least six hours before the activity is strictly prohibited.
4. **Sign Boards:** With rafting rules, medical concerns, age limit, dress code, and safety rules should be put up at a prominent place in Hindi, English, and the local language.
5. **No Rafting Activity** should be conducted in the dark and preferably finish an hour before dark.
6. **Age Limit:** Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from participating in high-risk activities, whereas those aged 12 and above may engage in activities with moderate risk. Minors involved in adventure activities must be accompanied by an adult.
7. **Helmets** must be worn by all participants including guides during rafting.

7. SOPs and Operating Instructions

1. All rafting operators must maintain and update a standard operating procedure for their operations.
2. Besides covering the methodologies that are adopted by the agency in organizing the activity, such as assessing medical condition and experience, the procedure for the conduct of the activity, avoidance of injury, safety precautions, communication, weather, the procedure for emergencies, casualty evacuation, incident and accident reporting and feedback mechanism the following must be included in the SOPs:
 - An emergency action plan including rescues, evacuations, and medical assistance must be in position. staff/ guides/ drivers must be trained in all aspects of the emergency action plan periodically.
 - Advertising must give a true picture of the difficulties and risks involved and clients briefed accordingly. Information about guides and their experience should be sent to the clients for multi-day rafting expeditions.

8. Documentation

The tour operator must maintain, at the minimum the following documentation:

1. Details of all guides and instructors including, copies of certifications, a record of experience, and feedback from clients.

2. Copies of all permits, permissions, and insurance required for operations.
3. Copies of identification documents, insurance cover, medical concerns, and details of next of kin for all participants, guides, and instructors.
4. Copy of SOPs.
5. Current list of emergency contact numbers and emergency action plan.

9. Emergencies and Rescues

1. A proper first aid kit must be available with the rafting trip.
2. Evacuation routes must be identified and known to participants, guides and instructors.
3. A detailed and documented emergency action plan must be available along with the closest available emergency services that can be called upon as required.

10. Safety Briefing

All instructors and guides should be able to give a thorough safety briefing that covers all safety aspects and detailed paddling and rescue instructions in detail. This briefing must be clear and must have the ability to be given in English and/ or Hindi or the local language.

11. Medical Concerns

All instructors and guides must be able to ensure that a question regarding medical issues is asked before the activity is conducted. It is recommended that heart patients, those with spinal issues, recent surgery, or any other medical issue of concern, expecting mothers, and underage children do not undertake the activity. It is also recommended to check for epilepsy and asthmatic patients, on the extent of the ailment. Asthma inhalers must be carried by clients and preferably handed over to the guide.

12. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant of recognition must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The owner must possess the 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. The entity must own specialized equipment commensurate with the needs of undertaking and running such a safe rafting operation.
3. The entity must have qualified personnel on its payroll. This person must have the requisite experience in the activity and have first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
4. The entity must operate with the required permits/ licenses and registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
5. The rafting company must follow a strict 'leave no trace policy' and conform to high sustainability standards.

Kayaking

Guidelines and Regulations

**Department of Tourism
Union Territory of Ladakh**



Guidelines and Regulations for Kayaking

1. Introduction

Kayaking is amongst the most popular water sports activities globally. Negotiating rapids and paddling in open water or lakes is an exhilarating experience requiring skill and stamina. Kayaks are normally decked and paddled with two-bladed paddles by paddlers sitting inside an enclosed cockpit. Spray decks are used to minimize water in the cockpit, providing better protection for paddlers and reducing the likelihood of hypothermia on cold water rivers. Safe use of spray decks requires training. Training in rescue procedures is required for all kayaks and techniques vary according to craft type and environment.

Since it is a dynamic sport, instructors and guides must be highly qualified and the equipment used should be of the highest standard. There are several types of kayaks:

1. **Recreational Kayaks:** Short (about 3 mt. for singles) and wide, with large open cockpits. They are suited to flat, sheltered waters only.
2. **Touring Kayaks:** 3.5 mt. to 4.5 mt. in length, often have bulkheads and hatches. They are suited to open waters such as estuaries and bays, but not the open sea.
3. **Sea Kayaks:** 4.5 mt. to 6 mt. in length, with bulkheads and hatches, hands-free pump systems, and other equipment and are intended for open sea conditions.
4. **Whitewater Kayaks:** There are several types of whitewater kayaks, mainly river runner, creek, and freestyle - all with spray decks.
5. **Sit on top (SOT) Craft:** SOT kayaks are a popular choice among recreational paddlers. Recovery after a capsize is easy, right the boat and re-board. On the other hand, paddlers are more exposed to the elements and more care is needed to minimize sunburn and hypothermia. Damaged or loose fittings and hatch covers, or hull damage may allow the entry of water: these crafts are not unsinkable:
 - I. Recreational types single and double, are fairly short and wide. Being susceptible to wind, they are suitable only for flat-sheltered water.
 - II. Touring SOTs are longer and able to cope with estuary and bay conditions. They are favored by the kayak fishing community.
 - III. Seagoing SOTs have performance and feature similar to sea kayaks but without the enclosed cockpit.
 - IV. Specialist SOTs for Whitewater and surf use are available. On open water, tethers can prevent the separation of craft and paddler after capsizing. There is the danger of entanglement.
6. **Inflatable Kayaks:** Inflatable kayaks range from little more than toys to kayaks for use on serious whitewater.

2. Guides/ Instructors

1. Lead instructors for water sports activities should, as a minimum, hold the following:

- I. A minimum 16-hour (2-day) first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
- II. Qualification from a recognized national or international body for the particular kayaking activity and a certificate from the operator that the individual “has experience of 2 years in assisting in the particular activity and is independently capable of guiding groups and carrying out rescue operations”.
- III. A logbook containing authenticated records of kayaking experience.
2. Other guides accompanying the trip should be skilled to a high level in conducting the activity, rescue and life-saving techniques, and first aid/ CPR.
3. All instructors and guides should have the ability to carry out the following and ensure that this is done before/ during the trip:
 - I. The ability to communicate clearly and deliver a comprehensive safety briefing before starting the activity is mandatory.
 - II. Gauge participants’ ability to participate in kayaking activity and their ability to do the specific stretch that they are being taken on.
 - III. Ask participants for relevant medical history.
 - IV. Check environmental conditions (weather, tide, river levels).
 - V. Conduct systematic hazard management checks to ensure that hazards (sources of harm) are identified, assessed, and either eliminated, isolated, or minimized on an ongoing basis.
 - VI. Headcount of all participants before, during, and at the end of the trip.
 - VII. Be vigilant for changes in the physical or psychological state of participants.
 - VIII. Set an appropriate pace for the group and take rest as necessary.

3. Equipment

1. Kayaks (should be a good quality stable craft, able to withstand all foreseeable forces, allow for easy exit upon capsize, footrests should not allow feet to become entrapped, should not sink if swamped and appropriate for the activity).
2. Paddles (appropriate for the type of kayak and the skill level of participants, should be able to withstand all forces associated with activity such as impact with rocks).
3. Helmets are mandatory for all kayaking trips taking place on a river (should be made of strong lightweight material like carbon fiber or plastic, provide protection and coverage to the forehead, temple, and back of the head and have a good system to absorb shock from impacts).
4. Life jackets or Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) (must meet the minimum buoyancy requirement, be appropriate for the intended activity, and be certified/ approved by BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards), US coastguard, British Canoe Union, or equivalent).
5. Throwable rescue devices must be available for immediate use.
6. Safety kayaks must be available in the immediate vicinity (within visual distance) for prompt rescue with personnel duly qualified to operate/ carry out rescue operations.
7. During cold weather operations, wetsuits and spray jackets are recommended.
8. Instructors must all carry rescue bags, knives, and whistles.
9. Each trip must carry a first aid kit.

4. Operations

All kayaking activities must begin with a thorough safety briefing. The briefing must highlight the equipment used, do's and don'ts, demarcation of the boundary for the activity, and rescue and emergency procedures. A liability waiver form highlighting the risk involved must be signed by all participants before the commencement of the activity. Participants with any medical condition making them unfit for participation in the activity must be informed before the commencement of the activity and not allowed to participate.

5. Risk Mitigation

1. **Lifejackets:** No kayaking activity should be undertaken without wearing a lifejacket throughout the time spent on the water. The life jacket must have adequate buoyancy and should be fastened properly and checked by the instructor before the commencement of the water sports activity. The lifejacket must be the appropriate size for the intended user.
2. **Guides:** No kayaking activity should be conducted without the presence of trained guide/s.
3. Only competent swimmers should participate in whitewater kayaking.
4. **Helmets:** Helmets are mandatory for whitewater kayaking. Helmets should be a good fit, tight to not move but not uncomfortable with an effective fastener to keep the helmet in place.
5. **Instructor-to-Client Ratio:** Due to the technical nature of the sport, it is advised that the company ensure the instructor-to-client ratio is always 1:4 in white water kayaking. There should always be at least two qualified instructors on any trip.
6. **Number of Kayaks:** There should be at least three kayaks for a trip to occur, no single kayak trips are allowed.
7. **Alcohol/ Drugs** during the activity and at least six hours before the activity is strictly prohibited.
8. **Client Ability:** Clients should not be taken on stretches that the instructor deems above their ability level. Their fitness should be assessed, and they should be taken on an appropriate stretch.
9. **Sign Boards:** For properties/ operators that have access to the water/ river. Signboards should be present beside the water/ river with rules mentioning that no water sports activity is to be undertaken unless supervised.
10. No kayaking activity should be conducted in the dark and preferably finish at least one hour before dark.
11. **Age Limit:** Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from participating in high-risk activities, whereas those aged 12 and above may engage in activities with moderate risk. Minors involved in adventure activities must be accompanied by an adult.

6. SOPs and Operating Instructions

3. All kayaking operators must maintain and update a standard operating procedure for their operations.
4. Besides covering the methodologies that are adopted by the agency in organizing the activity, such as assessing member's medical condition and experience, procedures for the conduct of the activity, avoidance of injury, safety precautions, communication, weather, the procedure for

emergencies, casualty evacuation, incident and accident reporting, feedback mechanism the following must be included in the SOPs:

- An emergency action plan including rescues, evacuations, and medical assistance must be in position. Staff/ guides/ drivers must be trained in all aspects of the emergency action plan periodically.
- Advertising must give a true picture of the difficulties and risks involved and clients briefed accordingly. Information about guides and their experience should be sent to the clients for multi-day kayaking expeditions.

7. Documentation

The tour operator must maintain, at the minimum the following documentation:

1. Details of all guides and instructors including, copies of certifications, a record of experience, and feedback from clients.
2. Copies of all permits, permissions, and insurance required for operations.
3. Copies of identification documents, insurance cover, medical concerns, and details of next of kin for all participants, guides, and instructors.
4. Copy of SOPs.
5. Current list of emergency contact numbers.

8. Emergencies and Rescues

1. Adequate first aid medical equipment must be available with the kayaking trip.
2. Evacuation routes must be identified and known to participants, guides, and instructors.
3. A detailed and documented evacuation/ emergency procedure must be available with the party along with the closest available emergency services which can be called upon as required.

9. Safety Briefing

All instructors and guides should be able to give a thorough safety briefing that covers all safety aspects and detailed instructions about a safe kayaking tour. This briefing must be clear and given in English, Hindi, or the local language that the passenger can understand.

10. Medical Concerns

All instructors and guides must be able to ensure that a question regarding medical issues is asked before the activity is conducted. It is recommended that heart patients, those with spinal issues, recent surgery, or any other medical issue of concern, expecting mothers, and underage children do not participate in the activity. It is also recommended to check for epilepsy and asthmatic patients, on the extent of the ailment. Asthma inhalers must be carried by clients and preferably handed over to the guide.

11. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant of recognition must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The owner must possess the 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. The entity must own specialized equipment commensurate with the needs of undertaking and running such an operation.
3. The entity must have qualified personnel (minimum two full-time qualified staff) on their payroll. These personnel must carry the requisite experience in the activity and have valid first aid/ CPR certification.
4. The entity must operate with the required permits/ licenses and registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
5. The entity must have at least one certified and experienced person on its Board.
6. The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace policy' and conform to high sustainability standards.

Jet Ski

Guidelines and Regulations

**Department of Tourism
Union Territory of Ladakh**



Guidelines and Regulations for Jet Ski

1. Introduction

A jet ski is a small, motorized watercraft designed for one or more riders. It is typically powered by a jet propulsion engine, which draws water in and expels it through a nozzle to propel the craft forward. Jet skis can be ridden either sitting or standing and are popular for recreational activities, such as water sports, and sometimes used in lifeguarding or rescue operations. "Jet Ski" is originally a brand name of personal watercraft made by Kawasaki but is commonly used to refer to any similar type of vehicle.

2. Guides/ Instructors

Personnel responsible for conducting water sports must be skilled to a high level in conducting jet ski activities, rescue and life saving techniques and qualified/certified in First Aid/C.P.R.

Basic Minimum Qualifications and Experience

1. Qualification from a Recognized National or International body for Jet Skiing and a certificate from the operator that the individual "has experience of 2 years in assisting in the particular activity and is independently capable of teaching, assisting, leading trips and carrying out rescue operations".
2. They should be a strong swimmer.
3. A minimum 16 hours (2 day) valid first aid/ CPR certification by Red Cross, or any other similar course conducted/ recognized by the Government of India or the UT Administration.
4. A logbook containing authenticated record of Jet Skiing lessons.
5. Qualified and proficient in life saving and rescue techniques.
6. All staff must be familiar with emergency oxygen equipment and training sessions should be held for all staff annually.
7. A powerboat license certificate provided by a recognized and qualified provider.
8. An open water lifeguard certificate provided by a recognized and qualified provider

3. Operations

1. It is imperative that personnel responsible for conducting Jet Ski lessons are certified Jet Ski operators with water awareness skills.
2. A detailed weather check must be conducted & displayed before commencing any activity.
3. All activities must begin with a detailed safety briefing. The briefing must highlight the equipment used, dos and don'ts, demarcation of the boundary for the activity, rescue and emergency procedures & current weather conditions.
4. All participants must sign a liability waiver form prior to the commencement of the activity clearly highlighting the risk involvements.
5. Participants with any medical condition making them unfit for participation in the activity must be informed prior to the commencement of the activity and not allowed to participate.
6. Jet ski rentals should be done only to experienced independent who can ride with a liability waiver signed.
7. The minimum age for jet ski sports is 18 years of age.

8. Before using a jet-ski the participant should be made to sign an indemnity form.
9. The participant should also sign a registration form with relevant personal details including address, phone number, whom to inform in case of accident etc.
10. Before hiring out a jet-ski there should be a detail briefing where markings on the area map clearly.
11. Before hiring out a jet-ski the user should be instructed on the operation of the Jet Ski. Specially starting and stopping procedures, the safe distance for slowing down on returning, the wearing of the kill switch and emergency stopping procedures.
12. Before hiring out a jet-ski it should be checked that the user is wearing a suitable lifejacket and a jet-skiing helmet with straps secured with buckles in working order.
13. Jet Ski should be operated in a well-defined area beyond normal swimming and watersports area. It is very important keep in mind that even the wake generated by a Jet Ski would pose danger to kayaks and paddle boats.
14. Jet Ski Rides by Customers Accompanied by a Boat Driver: Watersport center may allow customers to driver a jet ski provided: -
 - a) A qualified boat driver seats behind during the ride.
 - b) Customer is thoroughly briefed on the controls of the Jet Ski, the rules of the road and basic seamanship during Jet Ski handling. Jet Ski drivers sitting behind on such a ride shall ensure that speed limit and the safety instructions are followed by the rider so as to avoid accident and injury to others. If the customer disobeys the instructions, the driver shall immediately take over the control.
15. Jet Ski Ride by Customers Independently: Watersport center can allow independent riding of jet ski by its customers but same is permitted only after an experienced instructor, holding jet ski certification from NIWS, conducted a short familiarization lesson as per "jet ski" familiarization check list issued by NIWS. Successful completion of familiarization should be recorded on the indemnity bond. No disobeying the instructions, the driver shall immediately take over the control.

4. Equipment

1. Life jackets or Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) (must meet the minimum buoyancy requirement, be appropriate for the intended activity, be certified/approved by ISI, US coast guard, British Canoe Union or equivalent).
2. Jet-Skis with a proper kill-switch.
3. Suitable floating, soft foam rubber inserted helmets.
4. Throw able rescue devices must be available for immediate use.
5. Equipment should be serviced annually and should be changed once every five years / as recommended by the manufacturer.
6. Equipment should be washed, dried and checked thoroughly after each use.

5. Inspections and Maintenance Procedures

1. To maintain Daily Pre-Operations and Post - Operation Check List and signed by the operator and the supervisor.

2. The hull, jet pump and the steering nozzle should check and maintained daily. Engine, ski hull, deck and trailer should maintain annually.

6. SOPs and Operating Instructions

The following rules should apply to all participants and guides during Jet Skiing:

1. All jet ski Operators must maintain and update a Standard Operating Procedure for their operations.
2. The SOP must mention the methodology adopted by the agency in organizing the activity such as assessing medical condition and experience, procedures for conduct of the activity, avoidance of injury/ drowning, safety precautions, communication, weather conditions, procedure for emergencies casualty evacuation, incident and accident reporting and feedback mechanism.

7. Documentation

The following is the basic minimum documentation required:

1. Details of all Instructors including copies of certifications, record of experience and feedback from clients.
2. Copies of all Permits and Permissions required for operations.
3. Copies of identification documents, insurance cover and details of next of kin for all participants, guides and instructors.
4. Copy of SOP's.
5. Current list of emergency contact numbers.
6. Emergency Action Plan.
7. Advertising must give a true picture of the activity and those who can participate in the activity.
8. First aid certificates for all guides.

8. Risk Mitigation

1. **Life Jackets:** Water sports activity must be undertaken with a lifejacket throughout the time spent on the water. The life jacket must have adequate buoyancy, should be fastened properly and checked by the instructor prior to commencement of the water sports activity. The lifejacket must be of the appropriate size for the intended user.
2. **Lifeguards:** No water sports activity should be conducted without the presence of trained lifeguard/s.
3. Alcohol/drugs during the activity and at least six hours prior to the activity are strictly prohibited.
4. **Sign boards:** With all rules and clearly mentioning that no water sports activity is to be undertaken without supervision.
5. No water sports activity should be conducted in the dark and preferably finish an hour before dark.
6. Assurance that the person can swim and is comfortable in the water.
7. Operator must be aware of local weather conditions and inform participants of special conditions prior to the activity. During bad weather conditions, lightning and storms, water sports activity should not be conducted.

8. Boats for safety / rescue must be available in the immediate vicinity (within visual distance) for prompt deployment with personnel duly qualified to operate/ carry out rescue's operations:
 - a) Each boat must have a crew of one or preferably two people, be dedicated to safety and support the participants in any way that they can.
 - b) The boat driver must have a boat driving license from an appropriate authority and have adequate knowledge of the water sports activity and location. He should have a First aid/CPR certificate. The boat must have an oxygen cylinder and mask and life jackets and throwable rescue devices for emergency situations.
 - c) The boat must be able to always communicate with the jet ski sport center using a walkie-talkie, phone, radio telephone or any other direct communication device.
 - d) The boats must have enough fuel to make trips to the activity site and accommodate any changes.

9. Emergencies and Rescues

1. All instructors / guides and any employee involved in the activity must have an in-depth knowledge of all Emergency Action Plans, Normal Operating Procedures and Risk Assessments.
2. Adequate first aid medical equipment, oxygen cylinder and mask must be available at the jet ski sport center.
3. An Emergency Action Plan must be in position and all personnel/crew trained regularly in scenarios. Advance arrangements must be in position for medical/evacuation assistance in case of emergency.
4. Evacuation/rescue procedures known to participants and instructors.

10. Safety Briefing

A pre-ride safety briefing covering all aspects of risks and action to be taken both by conducting staff and the participants should be covered in detail, some aspects are highlighted below:

All instructors and guides should be able to give a thorough safety briefing covering all aspects of the water sport activity and safety/ rescue. This briefing must be clear, given in English, Hindi or local language and ensure the attention of clients during the briefing.

Rules and regulation for operation of Jet-Skis:

1. A clear map of the area should be displayed at the water-sports center with following details.
 - a) Any underwater obstruction that could pose a danger to jet-ski operations, eg. Rocks, pylons, sand banks etc.
 - b) The special area demarcated where the jet-ski is allowed to operate, preferably visible from the water-sports center.
2. All danger sports areas should be indicated using red buoys and appropriate Signs.
3. Before hiring out a jet-ski participant should be instructed regarding the route rules, especially overtaking, and crossing situation.

4. When two jet-skis are on a collision course, i.e., heading towards each other, both should change course to starboard or the right (green) side, so that they pass each other on their port (red) sides. This changing of course should be done leaving ample time and should be clearly visible to each other.

11. Medical Concerns

1. For personal medical conditions, clients should be advised to carry medication and inform the ride leader.
2. For accident-related concerns, the ride leader should have a plan in addition to a first aid kit.
3. Instructor must ensure that the participant can swim in open waters comfortably.
4. Instructor must ensure that the participant is medically fit to learn or participate in the activity.
5. A signed declaration from the participant is essential, if there is any suspicion of prior injuries or medical concerns.
6. Participant with a weak heart condition, epilepsy, spinal issues, recent surgery, or any other medical condition of concern should not be taken for Jet Skiing.
7. Expecting mothers should avoid Jet Skiing.
8. Asthma inhalers must be carried by clients with asthma.

12. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Operators

It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant of recognition must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The owner must possess the 'Ladakh Resident Certificate' issued by the Competent Authority.
2. The agency must be registered with the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh.
3. The staff should meet the qualifications defined above.
4. The center should have a full set of equipment for the maximum number of clients it can service.
5. The operator must have an Emergency Action Plan for which regular training must be imparted to the staff.
6. The entity must have a registered office
7. The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace' policy and conform to high sustainability standards.

"No legal responsibility is accepted for the contents of publication of advertisements/publications in this part of The Ladakh Gazette. Persons notifying the advertisements/public notices will remain solely responsible for the legal consequences and also for any other misrepresentation etc."